

SEE IT FOR YOURSELF: TWO TICKETS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE FOR *the AVENGERS* TOKEN: PAGE 8, FRIDAY REVIEW



THE INDEPENDENT

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64-PAGE LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

INSIDE: THE ONLY
OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE
TO UNIVERSITY PLACES

Vanessa Feltz:
how much is
too much?



US bombs terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

AMERICA launched military attacks on targets in Afghanistan and Sudan yesterday in retaliation for the bombings of its embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

A grim-faced President Clinton emerged from his holiday retreat in Martha's Vineyard to announce the strikes at 10 minutes' notice, and returned immediately to Washington.

The strikes were against groups linked to Osama bin Laden, the millionaire Saudi financier who has warned the US to leave Saudi Arabia.

He had emerged as a key suspect in the bombings, though the US had not released any information conclusively tying him to the bombings. But there had been claims of responsibility in the name of a new group apparently formed from a coalition of Islamist groups earlier this year.

"We have convincing evidence that those groups played the key role," in the embassy bombings, said the President. They had also "executed terrorist attacks on Americans in the past", he said.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Bin Laden was also involved in attacks on American forces in Somalia in 1993, and was behind the bombings of American facilities in Saudi Arabia.

The US also had "compelling information" that the groups were preparing additional attacks on Americans and their allies. And they were "seeking to acquire chemical weapons and other dangerous weapons," said Mr Clinton. The camp in Sudan had contained a chemical weapons facility, he said.

The Pentagon was also



preparing to provide information on the attacks. The US struck at "several facilities", said the US Defense Secretary, William Cohen. "We have taken these actions to reduce the abilities of these groups to train and equip their misguided followers," he said. "There will be no sanctuary for terrorists."

The US indicated that there was no evidence that any state had been responsible for the Embassy bombings. Bin Laden has in the past had ties to the government in Sudan, and America said that the chemical plant in Khartoum was linked to the Sudanese regime.

The sudden and unexpected attacks demonstrate that the President is still very much in control of America's military machine, whatever damage may have been done to him politically by the revelations of his

affair with Monica Lewinsky. They are clearly aimed at underlining that despite its current preoccupations with below-the-belt matters, America remains intent on protecting its interests.

America had said immediately after the East African bombings that its reach was far and its memory long, and that it would retaliate. At the time, there was considerable scepticism in the US press and elsewhere that it would be able to reach Bin Laden, secure in the fastness of his Afghan redoubt.

Sources in Islamabad confirmed that a believed hideout of Bin Laden in Afghanistan had been attacked.

Bin Laden, speaking to *Independent* correspondent Robert Fisk less than 18 months ago, described his contempt for America.

"If liberating my land is



President Bill Clinton announcing the strikes against bases in Sudan and that of Osama bin Laden (above left), in Afghanistan Sky News

called terrorism this is a great honour for me," he said, adding: "We are still at the beginning of our military action against the Americans."

He was one of the great mujahedin (holy warrior) heroes of

the war in Afghanistan against the Soviet army, using his fleet of bulldozers and his army of Arab fighters to blast tank and ammunition trails to fight the Russians.

His family is immensely

wealthy, at least one of his brothers - there are more than 40 by several of his father's wives - is at Harvard.

Two of his three wives are believed to be with him in Afghanistan.

Comprehensives still in top class at A-level

LEADING comprehensives are holding their own against top state grammar schools, according to a snapshot survey of A-level results carried out by *The Independent*.

But selective schools still make up the bulk of the top performers because of their high entry standards.

A poll of some of the best performing schools showed the top comprehensive, Tarporley County High School in Cheshire, outstripped many selective schools. Sixth-formers at the school, which serves a rural community outside Chester, notched up an average score of 27 points, the equivalent of two As and a B grade.

Alan Sieber, the head teacher, said yesterday: "It's wonderful on these occasions to hear little whoops of joy. That was the most common sound at the school today; the results have never been quite as good as this."

"We are proud of the fact that we are a comprehensive. The vast majority of youngsters in

BY BEN RUSSELL
and JUDITH JUDD

the area come to the school and we have a full range of abilities."

The top state grammar school was King Edward VI Grammar in Chelmsford, Essex, where students achieved an average 38.7 point score, almost the equivalent of each student get-

INSIDE

The girl with six straight As:
Tears of joy at results:
Clamour for places
despite fees
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Full UCAS listings pull-out

ting an A and three Bs. One examination board was facing intense criticism yesterday after schools reported that some of their examination results were incomplete.

Katherine Lady Berkeley

School in Gloucestershire said the results of modern language oral exams, which account for 30 per cent of the marks, had not been included in the grade by the exam board, the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate.

Dorothy Chilton, the deputy head, said: "Naturally people are very upset. One girl has been rejected by the university which had made her a conditional offer. We are contacting them to explain, but it has caused great distress."

Other schools complained that the marks for component parts of the geography exam from the same board did not tally with the final grade - someone, for example, who scored B for all three components had been awarded a D. One pupil had been given a deadline of Monday by a university to sort out the problem.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the examination board, said that it was committed to sorting out any difficulties within 72 hours.

Blair endorses Dublin terrorist crackdown

NORTHERN IRELAND yesterday laid to rest the last of the 28 Omagh dead, as Tony Blair promised to match the urgency of the Irish government in putting new anti-terrorist measures into place.

Speaking from France about the Omagh bombers, the Prime Minister said he and the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, were absolutely clear "that these people will be dealt with and taken off the streets". He added that complex technical and legal details were being addressed.

Downing Street said last night that Parliament could be recalled to rush through tougher security measures, if required.

Mr Blair's pledge came as police revealed that they had traced the final movements of the car used to transport the 900lb bomb. Two men were seen getting out of the stolen maroon Vauxhall Cavalier, which was abandoned in Market Street in the town, at least 40 minutes before the device went off at 3.10pm.

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
and COLIN BROWN

The Irish government announced on Wednesday that the Dail is to be recalled in two weeks' time to put through what Mr Ahern described as a package of "extremely draconian" new laws in the wake of the Omagh atrocity.

The new measures are to include restrictions on suspects' right to silence and the confiscation of land where paramilitary equipment is found. Other new offences include those of directing an unlawful organisation, possessing items for purposes connected with firearms and explosives offences, and withholding information.

Since most of these are already on the British statute book, the concentration in London appears to be on making charges of membership of an illegal organisation easier to prove in court. The Government is said to be examining whether this could be done

without the need for passing new legislation.

A Whitehall source said last night: "We are going to strengthen the measures to make convictions easier. We want to move in step with the Irish government. There are complex legal issues which are having to be addressed. If we need parliamentary legislation, we will want to move quickly."

The House of Commons is not due to return after the summer recess until 19 October, but the Prime Minister's Office is not ruling out a recall of Parliament in September.

Meanwhile, Bernadette Sands-McKevitt, partner of Michael McKevitt, the reputed leader of the Real IRA - which was responsible for the Omagh bombing - has been refused a United States entry visa.

She had planned a visit next month to promote the objections of her 32 County Sovereignty Committee, which is regarded as the Real IRA's political front.

"Bigger, bolder, sexier than ever" "One smart scary movie."

THE FILES

ONLY IN CINEMAS FROM TODAY

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Results day: Hundreds of thousands of students find agony or ecstasy inside an envelope as two years' work is graded

Girl with six A-levels says no to Oxford

A GIRL who yesterday scored six A grades at A-level is heading not for a career in academe but in the film industry.

Lisa Hall, 18, produced the sets for three major school productions during the final year of her A-level course.

Yet she was awarded A grades in Art, Art History, English Language, Economics, Business Studies and General Studies. Most candidates take only three A-levels.

Now, Lisa, a pupil at Colchester County High School for Girls, an Essex grammar school, will do an art foundation course before heading for an art and design degree course.

Unlike many other bright teenagers who collected strings of A grades yesterday, she is not aiming for Oxbridge but for Nottingham Trent, one of the newest universities, which has a course in television production and design.

She said: "I didn't work all the time - about two hours a night. But I did work throughout the two years instead of leaving it all until the last minute and I had an amazing amount of support from teachers and my friends."

She has just returned from a month-long school trip to Ecuador, where she climbed

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

mountains, went white-water rafting and helped renovate a village hall by painting murals. All the planning and fund-raising for the Ecuador trip was done while she was studying for her exams.

Lisa is an only child and her parents, Hilary and Robert, both graduates of Bristol University, said that they were delighted.

Students in other parts of the country also scored six As. Elaine Macdonald, from Nailsea Comprehensive School, in north Somerset, will go to Cambridge to read medicine after being awarded the top grade in Physics, Chemistry, German, Maths, Further Maths and General Studies.

She challenged the idea that A-level standards were slipping. "I know how much hard work I had to put in to get these results. A-levels are so well-regulated that I don't think it is possible for standards to fall that much."

In Oxfordshire, Matthew Lloyd, 18, who attends Abingdon School, an independent, has six As after adding As in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Electronics to those he gained in Maths, three

years ago, and Further Maths, two years ago. Matthew, who is going to Queen's College, Cambridge to read Computer Science, produced a school play, *Another Country*, and carried on playing the piano and singing in a rock band while he studied. The band's name, Judd's Paradox, is taken from a line in the play. "We don't have any conscious influences but I suppose we sound quite like Radiohead, who also went to Abingdon School," he said. He finds the prospect of a job in the computer industry unexciting. "If I was good enough singer I would like to do that for the rest of my life but I don't think I am."

For some of the year he was so busy that he was averaging between four and five hours sleep a night.

He attributed his success to the extra help he received in both Maths and English when he was young.

Kathryn Huish, 18, from Heswall, who also gained six grade As, is to follow in her parents' footsteps and study for a Maths degree at Cambridge.

Kathryn, from Birkenhead High School, on the Wirral, Merseyside, who achieved A grades in Physics, Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, Information Technology and General Studies, said she would be studying at St Catharine's, her father's old college.

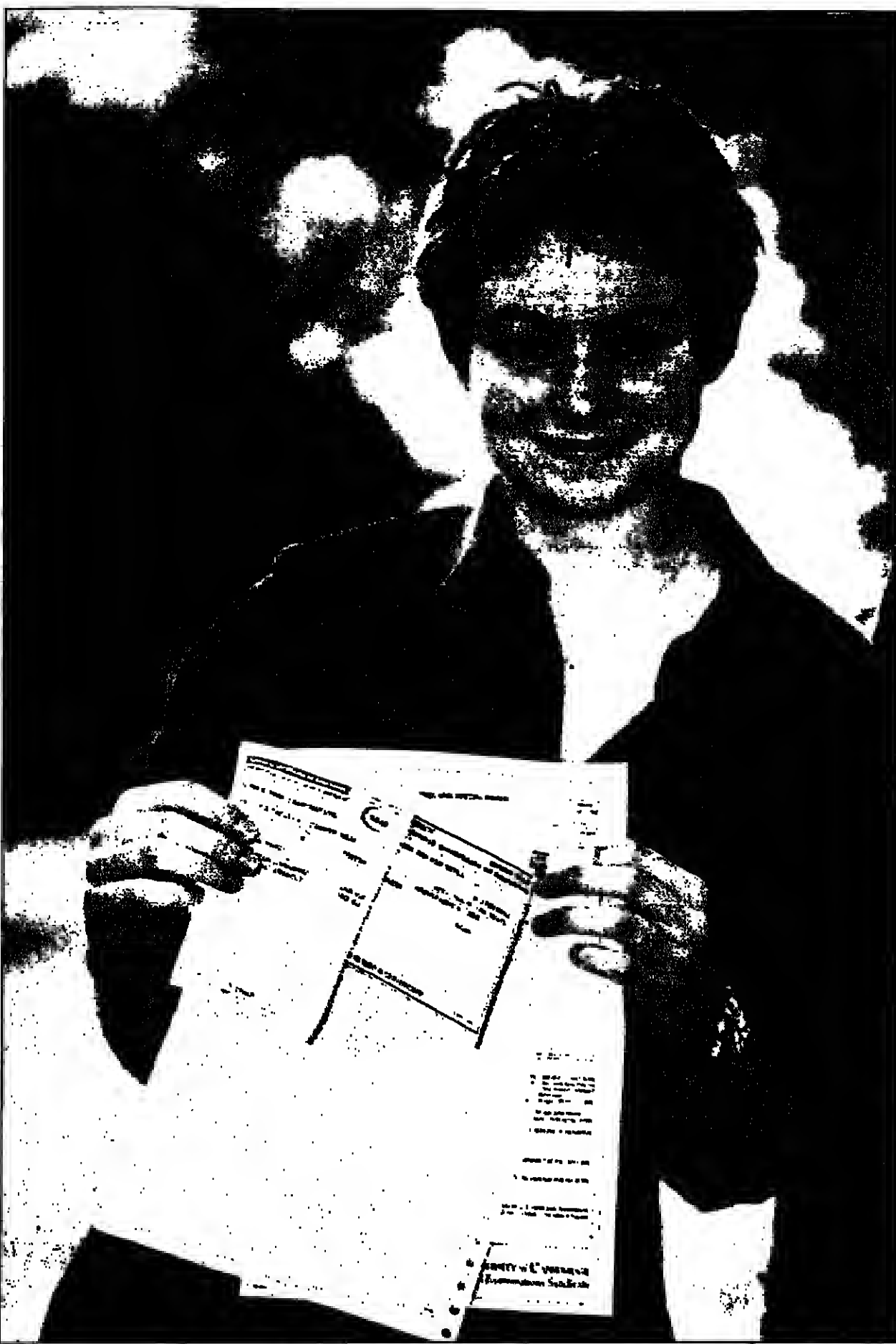
She was also awarded a distinction in her General Studies spoken English.

One of the youngest pupils to pass an A-level is thought to be a 12-year-old boy from Harrow, in north London. Priyesh Patel achieved a grade C in Computing at Ryde College, in London.

At Dame Allan's School, in Newcastle upon Tyne, five pupils who have all been awarded five A-levels all want to become doctors.



From left: Saul Kaufman, Jill Murray, Ruth Dobson, Melanie Drewis and Dave Ripley, of Dame Allan's School, Newcastle upon Tyne, each gained five As at A-level; they plan to go to medical school. Will Walker



Lisa Hall, of Colchester County High School for Girls, with certificates for her six A-levels, all at grade A. PA

Tears of joy as results flood in

BY LOUISE JURY

JENNI McHALE emerged from the physics block clutching the envelope that contained the key to her future. She leaned pensively against a post, took a deep breath, opened it and burst into floods of tears.

"I've passed French," she said by way of explanation when she finally stopped sobbing. She was crying in relief. With an E in French, her worst subject, she had secured the grades she needed to study financial services.

"I'm going to work on the stock market eventually," she said. "But it would all have been blown out if I hadn't passed French."

At the Sixth Form College, in Farnborough, Hampshire, yesterday the queue of 350 jittery A-level students began to gather shortly before midday. As the doors opened for them to collect their results, many could not bear to look. They took their envelopes to open around the corner or behind the tree. Then came whoops, screams and a lot of hugging. And crying.

Seven students achieved five A-grade passes. Another 16 got As in four subjects. Samantha Pink got an A in maths even though she missed two questions on the back of the paper. Twin sisters Hazel and Helen Rogers, 18, gained nine A grades between them and, no, Helen said she did not mind getting a C for her fifth. "It was only general studies," she said, a subject all the students take.

Some were left with a nervous wait to see whether they will be able to take up the place they want. Matthew Cooksey, one of the first in the queue, found he had not gained the French grade he needed to go to Bournemouth. "They've got vacancies in clearing," a friend said encouragingly.

Yet to others, the results were simply academic. Alex Lang got three As and an E, but is abandoning academia for the world of work. "I've had enough of writing essays," he said.

TOP 50 COMPREHENSIVES

School	Score
Torquay County High Sch, Cheshire	27
Castle Sch, Gloucestershire	25.5
Wyndham High Sch, Norfolk	24.9
Dorchester High Sch, Dorset	24.8
Huntingdon Sch, York	24.7
Coppes' Cn & Coburn (GM), Haringey	24.4
Alcester Sch, Shropshire	23.8
Barnes Sch, Lancs	23.6
Lady Margaret Sch, Derbyshire	23.5
St Mary's RC High Sch, Derbyshire	23.4
Old Swinford Hospital, Shropshire	23.3
Becket Sch, Nottinghamshire	23.1
Salford Walsden County High Sch	23.1
Wyndham College (GM)	23.1
Christleton County High Sch, Cheshire	23
St Nicholas RC High Sch, Cheshire	23
Katherine Lady Barkley's Sch, Gloucestershire	22.9
Dido Sch, Oxfordshire	22.7
Durham Johnson Comp Sch, Durham	22.7
Fallowfield High Sch, Cheshire	22.6
Harrowgate Grammar Sch, N Yorkshire	22.5
St Albans and St John Fisher, N Yorkshire	22.8
St Mary's Comp Sch, W Yorks	22.6
Benton Park Sch, Leeds	22.5
Blue Coat Sch, Oldham	22.4
Congers Sch, Stockton on Tees	22.4
Stokeley Sch, N Yorkshire	22.3
Hamby High Sch, Cheshire	22.3
King's Sch, Peterborough	22.2
St Alban's St John Fisher, Harrogate	22.2
Queen Katherine Sch, Cumbria	22.1
Bishop Heber County High Sch, Cheshire	22
Churchill Community Sch, N Somerset	21.9
Parrs Wood High Sch, Manchester	21.9
Sacred Heart of Mary's Sch, Essex	21.9
Tadcaster Grammar Sch, N Yorkshire	21.8
Canon Stade GM Sch, Bolton	21.8
Chase High Sch, Macclesfield	21.8
Hinchingsbrook Sch, Cambs	21.8
John Port Sch, Derby	21.8
Walsford Grammar Sch for Boys, Herts	21.7
St Benedict's Sch, Suffolk	21.6
Walsford Grammar Sch for Girls, Herts	21.6
Wyedean Sch, Gloucestershire	21.4
Turton High Sch, Bolton	21.3
Lady Lumley's Sch, N Yorkshire	21.3
St John's Sch, Wiltshire	21.1
Rufford Sch, York	21
Lakes Sch, Cumbria	20.9
Brookfield Community Sch, Derbyshire	20.9

TOP 50 GRAMMAR

School	Score
King Edward VI Grammar, Chelmsford	33.7
Colchester Royal Grammar, Essex	33.3
King Edward Camp Hill Boys, Bham	31
King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls, Bham	30.9
Colyton Grammar, Devon	29.8
Pate's Grammar, Gloucestershire	29.8
Colchester City High for Girls, Essex	29.7
Lancaster Girls Grammar, Lancs	29.4
Stratford-upon-Avon Girls' Grammar	28.8
Wolverhampton Girls' High	28.8
Ernest Bevin's Grammar, N Yorks	28.7
Newport Girls' High, Shropshire	28.7
Lancaster Royal Grammar, Lancs	28.5
King Edward VI Five Ways, Bham	28
Aylesbury Grammar, Bucks	27.8
Queen Mary's Grammar, Walsall	27.8
Tonbridge Girls' Grammar, Kent	27.5
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Essex	27.4
Southend High for Girls, Essex	27.3
Alfrincham Girls' Grammar, Trafford	27.3
Devonport High for Girls, Devon	27.2
Parkstone Girls' Grammar, Poole	27.1
Alfrincham Boys' Grammar, Trafford	27.1
Queen Mary's High, Walsall	27
Ripon Grammar, N Yorks	26.9
Dartford Grammar, Kent	26.7
Wilson's, Sutton	26.5
King Edward VI Grammar, Warwick	26.4
Bourne Grammar, Lincs	26.3
Westcliff High for Girls, Essex	26.1
Nonsuch High Girls, Sutton	26.1
Royal Grammar, Bucks	25.8
Torquay Grammar, Devon	25.8
Calder Grammar, Lincs	25.8
Queen Elizabeth's High, Lincs	25.8
Dr Challoner's Grammar, Bucks	25.8
Cambridge Grammar, Lincs	25.6
Kesteven and Grantham Girls, Lincs	25.2
Newstead Wood Girls, Bromley	25.2
Wirral Boys Grammar, The Wirral	25.2
Crossley Heath, Calderdale	25
Torquay Boys' Grammar, Devon	25
Henrietta Barnett, Barnet	24.9
King Edward VI Handsworth, Bham	24.8
St Thomas Rich's, Gloucester	24.8
King Edward VI Aston, Bham	24.7
Lady Mary, Enfield	24.7
Adams Grammar, Shropshire	24.6
S Wilks Girls Grammar, Wiltshire	24.3
Westcliff High for Boys, Essex	24.2



Good news for A-level pupils at Farnborough Sixth Form College in Hampshire. David Rose

These tables are not a definitive league of school exam results, but represent a snapshot of some of the best performing state schools at A-level. Schools are ranked according to A-level point scores, where A=10 and E=2. Totals represent average points score include grades for general studies exams.

Clamour for places despite fees

BY JUDITH JUDD

STUDENTS ARE clamouring to go to university despite the Government's decision to introduce £1,000-a-year tuition fees. Tony Higgins, head of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said last night.

Dr Higgins said the service had received a record number of telephone calls - 8,000 - on the first day of the official clearing process which matches uni-

versity applicants to vacant places.

In addition, 24,000 people had visited its website, available to candidates for the first time this year.

Dr Higgins said: "This gives the lie to the people who are saying that candidates will not come into clearing because

they have been put off by tuition fees. They are inquiring very busily."

About 16 per cent of university applicants find their places through clearing. The main areas with vacancies are physics, chemistry and engineering.

Students who have accepted a firm offer are bound by contract to take it. So students who

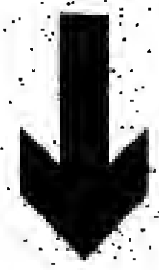
have done better than they expected cannot abandon a provisional offer and try for a better course or university.

UCAS advises those who have just missed their grades to ring the university or college immediately. Some may still be prepared to offer a place.

Full listings in the exclusive supplement with today's paper

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Ulster bombing: A father and a mother out with their children describe the horrific consequences of the blast

The day 'the devil came to Omagh'

TWO OF those injured in the Omagh bomb yesterday described their horrific experiences, including being blown across the street by the blast.

Francis Coyle and Sharon Haughey are being treated for shrapnel wounds at Tyrone County Hospital in the town.

Mr Coyle, 37, whose nine-year-old son Stephen is still in intensive care in Belfast, and whose wife, Linda, was also injured, said: "The devil came to Omagh that day."

The three were shopping at the time. The couple's 14-year-old daughter had stayed at home.

"There was a big flash and then a massive thud," Mr Coyle said. "I was thrown spread-eagled up into the air. I could feel things going past me and some hitting my arm. My eyes were

open and when I came to hit the ground again, I could see buildings falling down. Everything was in slow motion.

Mr Coyle, who suffered shrapnel wounds to his right arm, saw his wife running towards him, screaming.

"She did not seem to see me. She was blind and had terror on her face."

The couple found Stephen face down on the road.

"I turned him round and saw part of his shoulder blade was missing," Mr Coyle said.

"Linda was screaming that he was dying, so I was trying to pacify her and see to Stephen."

He picked up Stephen and tried to carry him to safety, but had to put him down when he realised the extent of the injuries to his own arm and that his coat sleeve was full of blood.

The three were driven to hospital in a minibus and were among the first to arrive.

Mr Coyle said he stayed with Stephen for 10 hours as his son drifted in and out of consciousness before being transferred to Belfast suffering from shrapnel wounds to his stomach and spleen.

"I talked to Stephen all that time and told him to be strong and always to fight," he said.

Sharon Haughey, 25, suffered shrapnel wounds to her neck, legs, arms and back. She was on a shopping trip with her sons, Darryl, five, and Matthew, two.

"I remember seeing a white light and then I was just blown onto the road," she said.

"I actually thought I was dead. My jeans had been blown off so I thought I had lost my leg. I remember hearing Darryl

saying 'Mummy, come back'. Every time I got up, I was just blown back."

The three managed to get to the hospital on a bus.

"I remember arriving in casualty and my two sons being taken somewhere to calm down," she said. "Everyone was rushing over each other and trying to help each other. I was taken to a treatment room to have stitches."

She has since had one large lump of shrapnel removed from her neck and another smaller piece taken out of the back of her head.

"If the shrapnel had gone in through the front of my neck rather than at the back, I would not be here talking today," she said.

"I am going to have to be strong for my children's sake."



Mourners at the funeral yesterday of Omagh bomb victim Geraldine Breslin

Dylan Martinez/Reuters

After Sanjesh Sharma finished his Technology Management Masters degree in 1994, he spent a year in Spain teaching English as a Foreign Language. The experience led him to a career that makes equal use of his computing and classroom skills: teaching IT. Just fourteen months after joining Crown Hills Community College in Leicester, he was promoted to Head of Department. In the last year, applications to the GCSE course have more than doubled.

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Sanjesh graduated in computing. But he's brilliant at chemistry.



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Friends grieve for popular young student

SO MANY teenagers, so many young people crying in the blustery wet and clutching each other for comfort. Half, maybe two-thirds, of the mourners at yesterday's funeral service of 17-year-old Samantha McFarland, were of school age.

Many would have known Samantha from Strabane Grammar School where she was studying for A-levels, while some were from her church. Others knew her from the Oxfam charity shop where she worked as a volunteer.

They stood together outside the Church of the Holy Trinity, Lisinnagh, four miles outside Omagh - too numerous to squeeze inside - as they listened to how their "popular and diligent" friend had been killed by an "appalling act of terror".

Some wore their blue school blazers, others wore leather jackets and trainers.

Samantha, who loved music and books, was one of the eight remaining victims of the Omagh bomb who were hurled or cremated yesterday. There were 16 funerals on Wednesday, and at times this week it has seemed everyone in Omagh was either on their way to, or had just come back from, such a service.

Every death has had its tragic details and Samantha's was no different. A regular volunteer worker, she had been serving in the Oxfam shop in Omagh's Market Street with her best friend, Lorraine Wilson, when they were evacuated into the path of the bomb blast.

Lorraine, 15, was among those buried on Wednesday. Samantha was to have been the bridesmaid at the wedding of her elder brother, Jonathan,

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

next month. Yesterday, in a reading, her other brother, Richard, told mourners how they would never forget their sister: "Samantha never got her A-levels or to her driving test," he said. "But she passed with flying colours the test of life. She had the love of people of all religions and all ages. She was a very private person and a very sociable person. She touched so many people."

Canon John Hay, the rector of Fintona, who led yesterday's service, which was attended by Northern Ireland's First Minister, David Trimble, and a representative of the Irish government, said he was distraught that so many young people should have to mourn a friend in such circumstances.

"No one should have to witness the things that the young people of Omagh have had to witness," he said. "It's so terrible that the young people have had to go through it. It breaks my heart."

There were similar scenes elsewhere in and around Omagh yesterday. Deborah Cartwright, 20, was cremated at Roselawn Crematorium, Geraldine Breslin, 43, who died as she left Watterson's clothes shop where she worked, was buried at St Mary's cemetery, Drumragh. Julia Hughes, 21, a university student, was also cremated at Roselawn.

Brian McCrory, 54, was buried at Killybegs; Elizabeth Rush, 57, who died in her shop, was buried at Drumragh. Esther Gibson, 36, was buried at Stomilecross. Ann McCombe, 45, was buried at Mountjoy Presbyterian Church.

IN BRIEF

Police swoop on counterfeit cash

THE BIGGEST fake money scam in the UK was smashed yesterday with the seizure of counterfeit cash worth more than £1 million, police said. The money was recovered in 230 notes which police said was "the most deceptive" counterfeit money yet seen. Two men were arrested in the raid, which marked the culmination of a four-year intelligence operation. It followed the seizure of more than £3 million worth of fake notes on the Isle of Wight.

Social services defend boat trips

SOCIAL SERVICES in Cumbria have defended their day centre boating holidays for people with learning difficulties following the fatal canal accident in North Yorkshire on Wednesday. Beverly Wilson, 33, John McGill, 49, Eric Jones, 43, from Barrow-in-Furness, and Peter Burgess, 42, from Dalton-in-Furness, drowned after their narrow boat sank at a lock at Gargrave.

Hillsborough police in court

DAVID DUCKENFIELD and Bob Murray, former South Yorkshire police officers, yesterday faced allegations, including unlawful killing, at a Leeds court in the first private case brought by families as a result of the Hillsborough disaster, which claimed the lives of 96 football fans.

Closure leaves pupils in limbo

PARENTS WITH pupils at Rushmore, a private school in Farnborough, Hampshire, have been given just two weeks to find a place elsewhere after learning yesterday that the school has been sold and will become a day nursery.

Sex-change for church minister

BILL PARRY, 59, a Non-Conformist minister in Croeserw, South Wales, said he is to have a sex-change and wants to be called Dian. His wife of 38 years is backing him.

Joe Min 1:50

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 21 August 1998

HOME NEWS/5

Claim that a glass of wine can cause infertility leaves drinkers confused

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THE MORE alcohol women drink the less likely they are to conceive. Researchers have found that even moderate drinkers consuming one glass of wine or beer a day were half as likely to get pregnant within six months as those who drank nothing.

The study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, is the first to suggest that moderate drinking can affect women's fertility. It is known that heavy drinking reduces a woman's chances of conceiving but, until now, it was thought that the occasional glass of wine or beer would do an intending mother no harm.

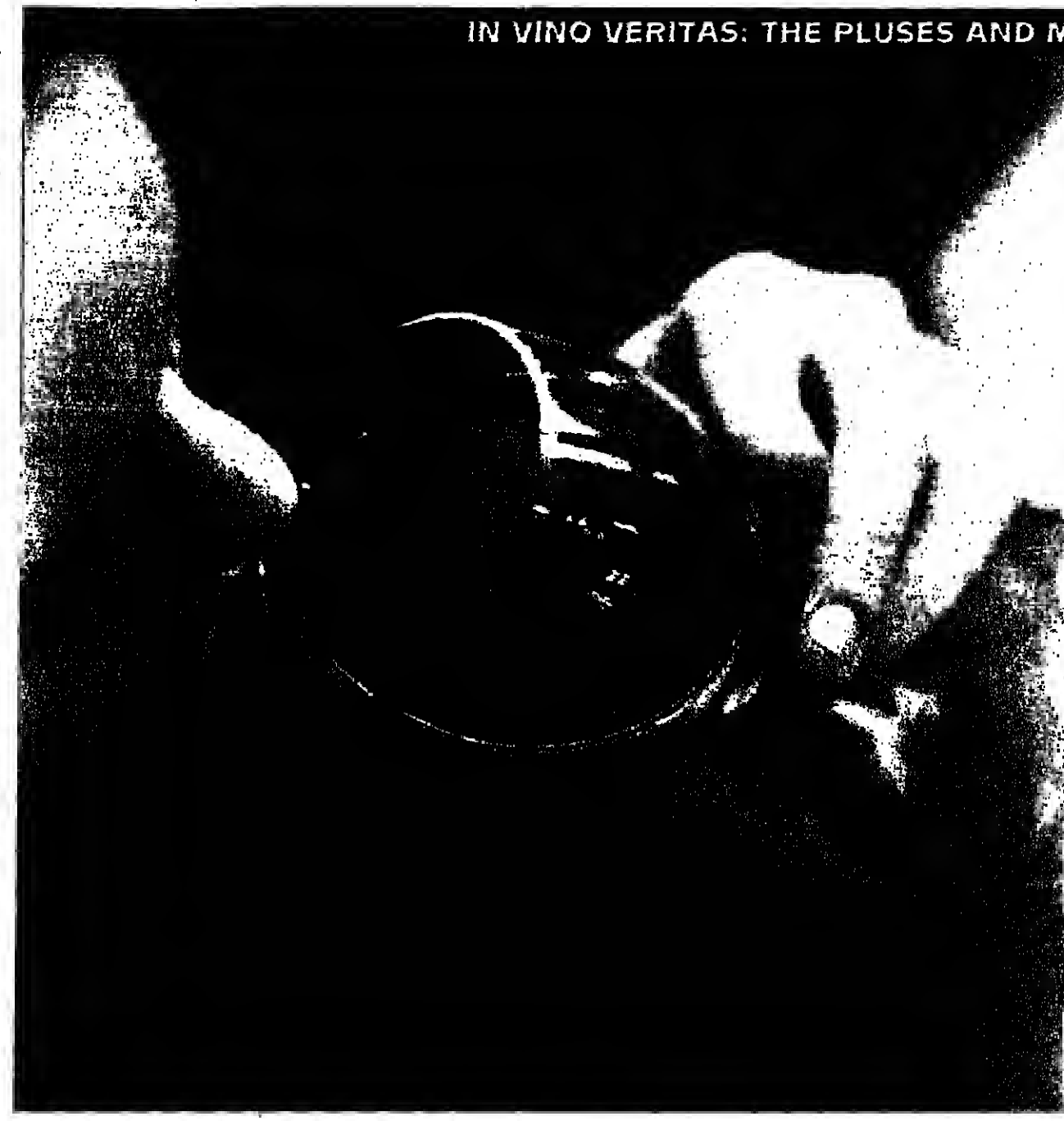
The finding will add to public confusion over whether drinking is good or bad for health. A wealth of research on the effects of alcohol, much of it conflicting, has left the average drinker bemused about the number of drinks safely permitted and whether they will increase or decrease the average lifespan (see panel).

In the latest investigation, Danish researchers, who studied 430 couples aged 20-35 who were trying to conceive for the first time, found that those women drinking one to five units a week were a third less likely to conceive within six months than those who drank nothing. (A unit is a glass of wine, half a pint of beer or a single measure of spirits.)

Those who drank six to ten units a week reduced their chances by almost half, and those who drank more than 10 units cut their chances by two thirds. Drinking appeared to have no effect on the fertility of the men.

Dr Tina Jensen, of the National University Hospital in Copenhagen, said: "I expected to find an effect of alcohol but not at these low doses. That is what surprised me."

Dr Jensen said that buying a bottle of champagne and going out for a meal could be an effective prelude to sexual intercourse, but all the couples in the study were trying to start



IN VINO VERITAS: THE PLUSES AND MINUSES OF A TIPPLE

GOOD NEWS

Going out to the pub is the most popular social pastime. Drinking eases social interaction, enhances enjoyment and relieves stress.

Moderate drinking (up to four glasses a day) cuts the heart attack risk in people over 45 by 30 per cent and increases longevity.

A bottle of champagne and dinner, candlelit or otherwise, can launch a new relationship or enhance an established one.

It is not just red wine that is good for the heart, as early studies suggested. Beer and spirits are just as effective. It is the alcohol that counts not the nature of the drink.

The safe drinking limits were increased two years ago from 21 to 28 units a week for men and from 14 to 21 units a week for women.

We drink less than our continental neighbours. Average consumption in the UK is 7.2 litres of pure alcohol per head per year compared with 11.5 litres in France, 12.1 in Germany and 12.6 in Luxembourg.

Regular drink holidays - days on which no alcohol is drunk - ease the pressure on the liver, give the body time to recover and are recommended by doctors.

A stiff drink before dinner stimulates the appetite and increases gastronomic enjoyment.

One survey showed more than half of men and two thirds of women said they might leave a party if people were getting drunk.

BAD NEWS

Drinking more than the recommended limits of three units a day for women and four for men is the commonest cause of high blood pressure, increases the risk of heart disease and stroke and is linked to two out of three suicides.

In women, moderate drinking increases the risk of breast cancer by 40 per cent (but this is outweighed by the reduction in heart attack risk because heart disease is commoner than breast cancer).

Even moderate drinking may reduce a woman's capacity to conceive and many a man has regretted going over the limit before bed.

The apparent benefit from wine derives from different styles of drinking. Wine drinkers tend to drink small amounts regularly while beer and spirit drinkers tend to binge on one or two days a week.

Some people misinterpreted the new advice to mean it was OK to down 14 pints in a weekend, increasing the risk of accidents and liver damage. Moderate drinking means regular small amounts, not weekend binges.

In Britain, 1.4 million men and 500,000 women are drinking at very risky levels - more than 50 units a week for men and more than 35 a week for women.

Drink holidays may mean the week's allowance is saved up for the weekend. Binge drinking leads to increased risk of accidents, on and off the roads.

Dieters who are serious about losing weight should drop the gin and tonic before dinner rather than the mints with coffee afterwards.

One million men and 190,000 women get drunk - defined as "not in control" - at least once a week. And those were the ones that admitted it.

a family and did not have problems with sex.

The drinkers had sexual intercourse slightly more often than the non-drinkers, with more than a third of the drinkers reporting having sex between seven and ten times each month compared with a quarter of the

non-drinkers. To correct for the effect of extra sex, the study excluded couples who did not have intercourse between day 11 and day 20 of the woman's menstrual cycle, when the chances of conceiving are highest.

Dr Jensen and her colleagues concluded: "This find-

ing needs further corroboration (by other studies) but it seems reasonable to encourage women to reduce their intake of alcohol or not to drink at all when they are trying to become pregnant."

It is not known how alcohol affects fertility, but animal

studies have shown that it can provoke spontaneous abortion. One hypothesis is that alcohol may interfere with the process of ovulation, the transport of the egg down the Fallopian tube and its implantation in the womb after fertilisation.

Dr Jensen said: "It is fan-

tastic that the egg can be implanted in this way. It is a delicate process and it is not difficult to imagine why women's fertility might be more susceptible to the effects of alcohol than men's."

Among pregnant women, heavy drinking is linked with a

higher incidence of miscarriages, still births and premature births.

Dr Jensen said a possible reason the effects of moderate drinking on conception had been missed in earlier studies was that personal estimates of the amount drunk were often-

ously unreliable. "Other studies have asked women what they drank on average."

"We went back every month and asked them what they had drunk. Some told me that they had had a hen night that month and drank 20 units. So we got a more accurate picture."

Couple feared drowned on second day of honeymoon

BY GARY FINN

A NEWLY MARRIED couple are feared to have drowned after setting off on a riverside walk on the second day of their honeymoon in the Yorkshire Dales.

Lynn and Barry Collett, who were married in Hampshire on Saturday, were last seen leaving their holiday cottage in the Dales on Monday. North Yorkshire police said.

The alarm was raised after a member of the public spotted a man's body in the river Wharfe at Bolton Abbey, near Skipton.

After recovering a red jacket with the couple's address police turned up at the deserted holiday cottage in the village of Appletreewick to find the living room filled with wedding presents, cards and even a tier of wedding cake.

As the search, using police divers, the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Service and workers from the Bolton Abbey estate, entered its fourth day yesterday, police said hopes of



Hopes of finding Lynn and Barry Collett alive are fading

finding the couple alive were fading.

Chief Inspector Ron Johnson said: "We are investigating what we believe is very probably the drowning of a newly married couple on the second day of their honeymoon."

"Clearly, with every passing day, hope is giving way to the belief that the couple have met with a terrible accident and

drowned together in a treacherous stretch of water. We continue to hope for the best. We fear the worst."

The couple vanished at a notorious stretch of the river Wharfe, known locally as the Strid, said to be riddled with underwater pools, hidden ledges and powerful undercurrents. It is flanked by warning signs and on the day of their disap-

pearances it was swollen with rainwater. Further rain fell on Monday night making it too dangerous for searches to start until yesterday.

The couple's parents have travelled to the area and are being cared for by specially trained police officers.

Mrs Collett, whose maiden name is Spenceborough, comes from Hook in Hampshire. She was a student nurse and Wednesday would have been her 26th birthday. Her 29-year-old husband works as a computer operator for an engineering company and comes from Camberley, Surrey.

The couple were married on Saturday in the village of Long Sutton in Hampshire.

They spent their wedding night at a hotel in Maiden's Green, Berkshire, before travelling to their holiday cottage by car on Sunday.

The spot where the couple are believed to have fallen in is about one-and-a-half miles from the holiday cottage, where they were last seen.

'Clairvoyant' terrier makes a dog's breakfast of psychic powers test

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

FOR PET owners who think Rover knows when they will return or their mystic moggie can sense their movements, there is bad news: scientific experiments have concluded that pets are not psychic.

The *British Journal of Psychology* today publishes a series of experiments carried out on a "mystic" dog whose owner claimed it could sense exactly when she decided to come home. Jaytee had already become a minor celebrity, appearing on several television programmes. She had been filmed going to the window at the moment her owner, Pam Smart, decided to return home from some miles away.

Dr Richard Wiseman and Dr Matthew Smith of the University of Hertfordshire set up trials to see whether five-year-old Jaytee could still predict Ms Smart's return under experimental conditions. Watches were synchronised, different cars were used (in case Jaytee could recognise the sound of Ms Smart's car), and both owner and dog were continuously videotaped.

In four experiments held over six months, Jaytee continually failed to predict Ms Smart's return, the scientists said.

In the first experiment Jaytee did indeed go to the porch at the time Ms Smart decided to go home. The psychologists concluded this had more to do with a car pulling up outside and a dog walking past than extra-sensory perception.

The second experiment was also unsuccessful, although Ms Smart felt that Jaytee might have been distracted by the fish van arriving at the moment she decided to leave the distant location.

Further experiments held in the winter, when there were fewer distractions for the terrier, found that although Jaytee did visit the porch for more than two minutes it was not at the

time Ms Smart decided to return. In one further experiment, Jaytee did respond at the target time but it was concluded this was because she felt ill and had to go into the garden to vomit.

Dr Smith admitted he was slightly disappointed with the results.

"Yes I was a little disappointed," he said. "I've worked with Dr Wiseman on similar claims, usually with people rather than animals, and under controlled conditions things don't happen. I am a bit sceptical about these things."

He added that he was still interested in carrying out more research in this area.

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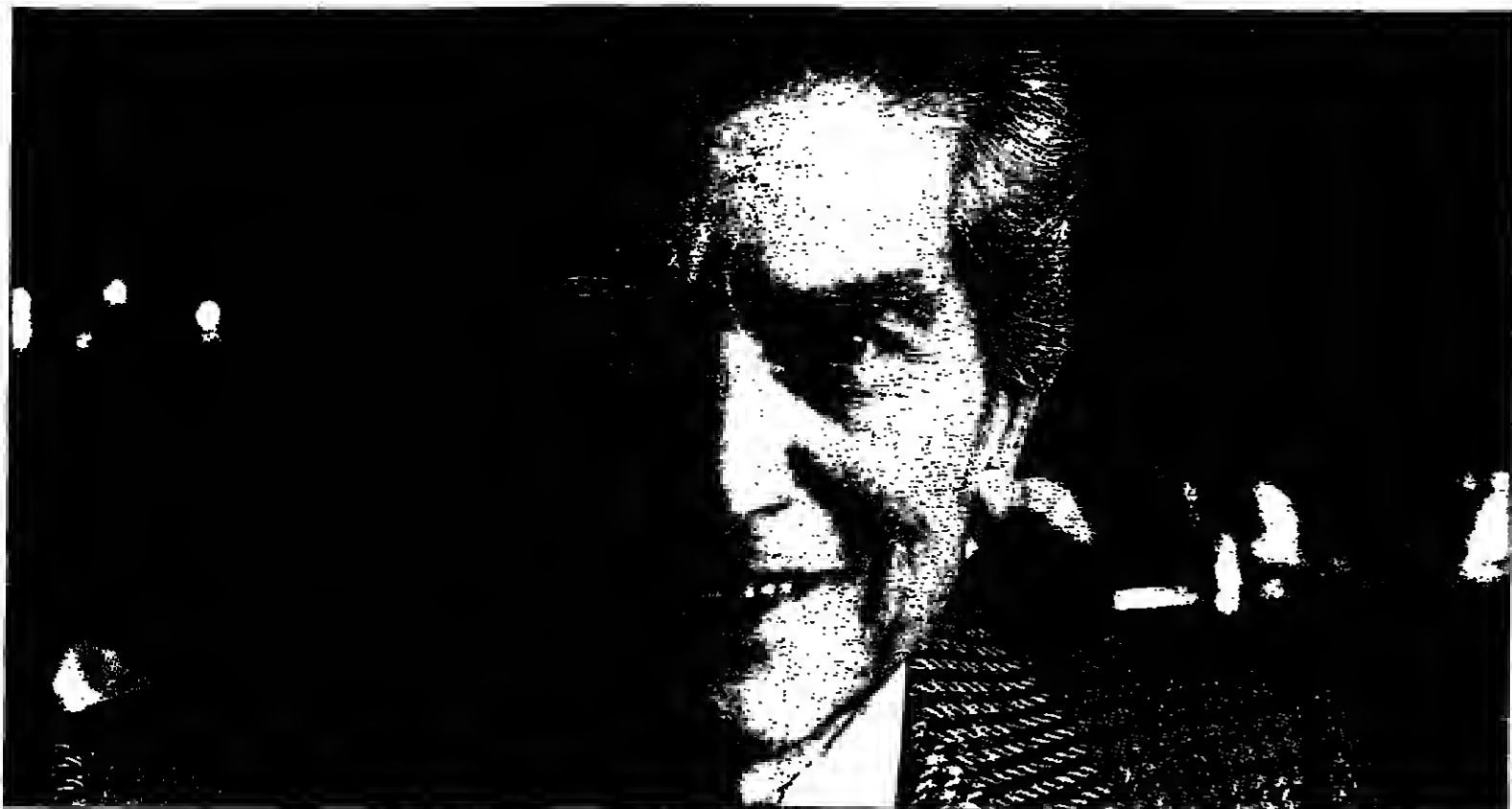
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Ronay sees red over blue plaques



The food critic Egon Ronay, who is fighting to save his 'good name' after last year winning back the rights to his food guides Keith Dobney

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THE FOOD critic Egon Ronay has never been afraid to wade into battle with anyone who slights his reputation, and he is once again on the warpath.

Mr Ronay, whose name is synonymous with gastronomic excellence, has asked hundreds of restaurants, cafes and bars to take down their plaques bearing his name.

Not normally one to shy away from free publicity, Mr Ronay said the plaques were handed out by the former owner of the food guides bearing his name, who failed to meet his high standards and he has no wish to be associated with them.

Mr Ronay, now in his seventies, wooed back the rights to his books last year after a legal battle with the previous owner, Leading Guides International, which was forced to close down.

He sued the company alleging that it had failed to pay promptly the inspectors who tour Britain filing reports for the guides. But he was also concerned that the adverse publicity had tarnished his reputation.

EGON RONAY'S GUIDES

The plaque eateries are being asked to remove

"I feel that the credibility of the guides has been undermined and that it reflects poorly on me," he said at the time.

"I have always been known for my reliability and integrity. I earn my living on the basis of my good name, and now it has been soiled. This is an unsavoury situation with a bad odour, and I wish to divorce myself from it."

But once again, Mr Ronay feels that his good name is under threat. Under the ownership of Leading Guides, later known as Global Infocom Ltd, any restaurant that qualified for the Egon Ronay Guide was allowed to display a blue plaque. But now back at the helm of his business, Mr Ronay has no truck with such gimmicks.

"I have never handed out such things and I never will," he said. "Now I have taken back the guide I want nothing to do with them. People will think I recommended these restaurants, but I did not and it is in the public interest to have these plaques removed."

Mr Ronay said he could not force the restaurants to move the plaques, but was "pleading" with them to do so. "It is a fact that not all the inspectors were as meticulous as they should have been and it is an absurd situation that my name is outside all these restaurants and bars."

"I have got to ensure that my name means what it used to and to do that I cannot have these plaques around the place. People come up to me when they have eaten in one of these places and they think it is me who recommended it and I have not even heard of these places."

However, the proprietors of Baslow Hall, in Derbyshire, the 1995 Egon Ronay Guide Restaurant of the Year, said they had no intention of removing their plaque.

Susan Fischer who, with her husband Max, has run the award-winning restaurant for the past nine years, said: "Mr Ronay would have to show up with a court order if he wanted us to remove our plaque. He can request and can express his feelings as much as he wishes but we have worked hard to earn that right and unless he can legally enforce it we have no intention of removal."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Egon Ronay's views on Airline food: "Premeditated gastronomic murder."

The diet industry: "It arrogantly claims it always knows better than nature."

His palate, insured for £250,000: "Sculptors earn their living with their hands. They are their tools. Mine is my palate."

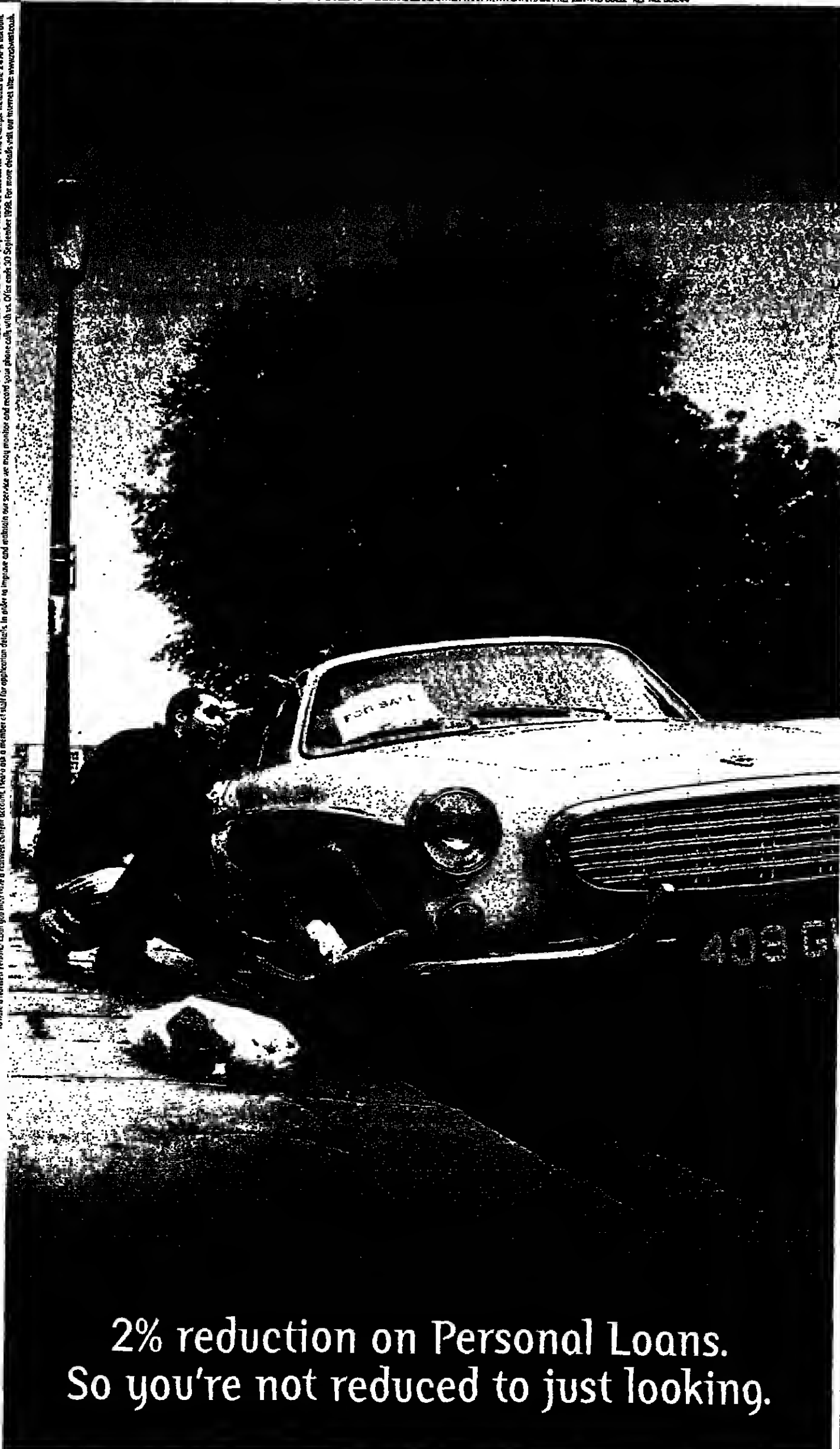
Other guide books: "It is a hair-raising outrage that the AA has stripped of its fifth rosette what I am convinced is by far the country's best restaurant — the AA Guide which should perhaps be 'inspected'."

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Scientists find secret of memory

SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered where memories are made and can predict whether an experience is destined to be remembered or forgotten.

Detailed brain scans of people trying to remember different outdoor scenes and words have revealed that a region of the brain just above the right eye, called the right prefrontal lobe, plays a crucial role in memory formation.

The researchers say that it is the first study to demonstrate which parts of the brain determine whether a specific and current experience will be remembered.

Scientists have long suspected that people remember some things better than others partly because of differences in the way the initial experience is encoded into the brain.

Using powerful brain scanners that can detect small changes in the activity of brain cells, researchers from Stanford and Harvard universities in the United States were able to separate the part of the brain used in processing an image or understanding a word and the part needed to encode a picture or word in the memory.

James Brewer, a neuroscientist at Stanford University, said: "Several regions of the brain are active when one processes a photograph, such as visual areas and areas that

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

allow a person to make sense of the picture, but the level of activity in most of those regions does not predict whether the photograph will be remembered or not."

However, in a study published in the journal *Science*, the researchers found that when the right prefrontal lobe became active, the experience of seeing an image or a word was significantly more likely to be remembered.

The findings may help scientists to understand why sufferers of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of senile dementia often have vivid memories of events early in life but easily forget things that have happened more recently, Dr Brewer said.

"We hope that these findings might give us a tool to examine the earliest effects of Alzheimer's disease so that any treatment that is employed will merely have to spare the neurons (brain cells) that are at risk, rather than replace the ones that have been destroyed," he added.

The scientists plan to apply the brain-scanning techniques to older people at risk of Alzheimer's to see if they can predict who will and who will not succumb to the disease.

'Blacks arrested on thin evidence'

MORE BLACK people are being arrested on weak evidence than their white counterparts, according to Home Office research published yesterday.

A disproportionate number of black people are taken into custody by police, especially after being stopped and searched in the street.

But both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service were "significantly" more likely to decide to drop any action against them.

The report, looking at the fate of suspects taken into police custody, said the data did not definitely point towards racial discrimination among officers.

But it concluded: "The possibility must be considered that, where the defendant was from an ethnic minority group, the police were more likely to submit for prosecution cases in which the evidence was weaker than average, or where the public interest was against prosecution."

In a study of 4,250 people arrested or detained between 1993-4, 79 per cent were white, 13 per cent black and 6 per cent Asian.

The number of black people arrested was up to seven times their proportion in the local population.

Some 54 per cent of the sample were unemployed.

les

There is a growing concern among the public that the safety of the fishing industry is under threat. The Government has been urged to take action to protect the lives of fishermen.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
The Government has announced a new safety code for small fishing boats. This is a significant step towards improving the safety of the fishing industry.

artists
secret
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arrested
evidence

New code for UK's most dangerous job

THE DEATH of 29 fishermen at sea last year - the highest toll in four years - has prompted the Government to introduce a new safety code for small fishing boats.

Vessels up to 12 metres (39ft) in length will be subject to regular inspections and their safety standards extended.

Until now small vessels have had a different safety regime from that of larger fishing craft, but commercial pressures have led to fishermen in boats of all sizes taking greater risks.

However, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, announcing the code yesterday, stressed that fishermen must behave more responsibly if there is to be any reduction in the "simply unacceptable" toll at sea.

While stepping up safety inspections and improving training, the Government also expected fishermen's attitudes to change, he said.

"We know you have got a difficult climate to work in and there are commercial pressures, but life is very important. It's not just fish you are getting, it's deaths that are being caused in catching them and I think that we don't have

BY CLARE GARNER

to pay that price." A consultation exercise with fishing communities is under way to find "acceptable" ways of reducing the number of fatalities, he added.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch's (MAIB) annual report published yesterday showed that, with 77 fatalities for every 100,000 fishermen, the fishing industry is Britain's most dangerous occupation by far.

The next highest category, mining and quarrying, registers 23.2 deaths per 100,000 workers.

The report blamed the rising death toll among fishermen, which is all the more serious because of the sharp reduction in the size of the British fishing fleet in recent years, on the pressures of a contracting industry.

Fishing vessels of all sizes are travelling farther in search of a catch, it said.

Yesterday's announcement followed attempts this month to solve the mystery of the *Gaul*, the Hull-registered trawler that sank off the Norwegian coast in 1974 with the loss of 36 lives.

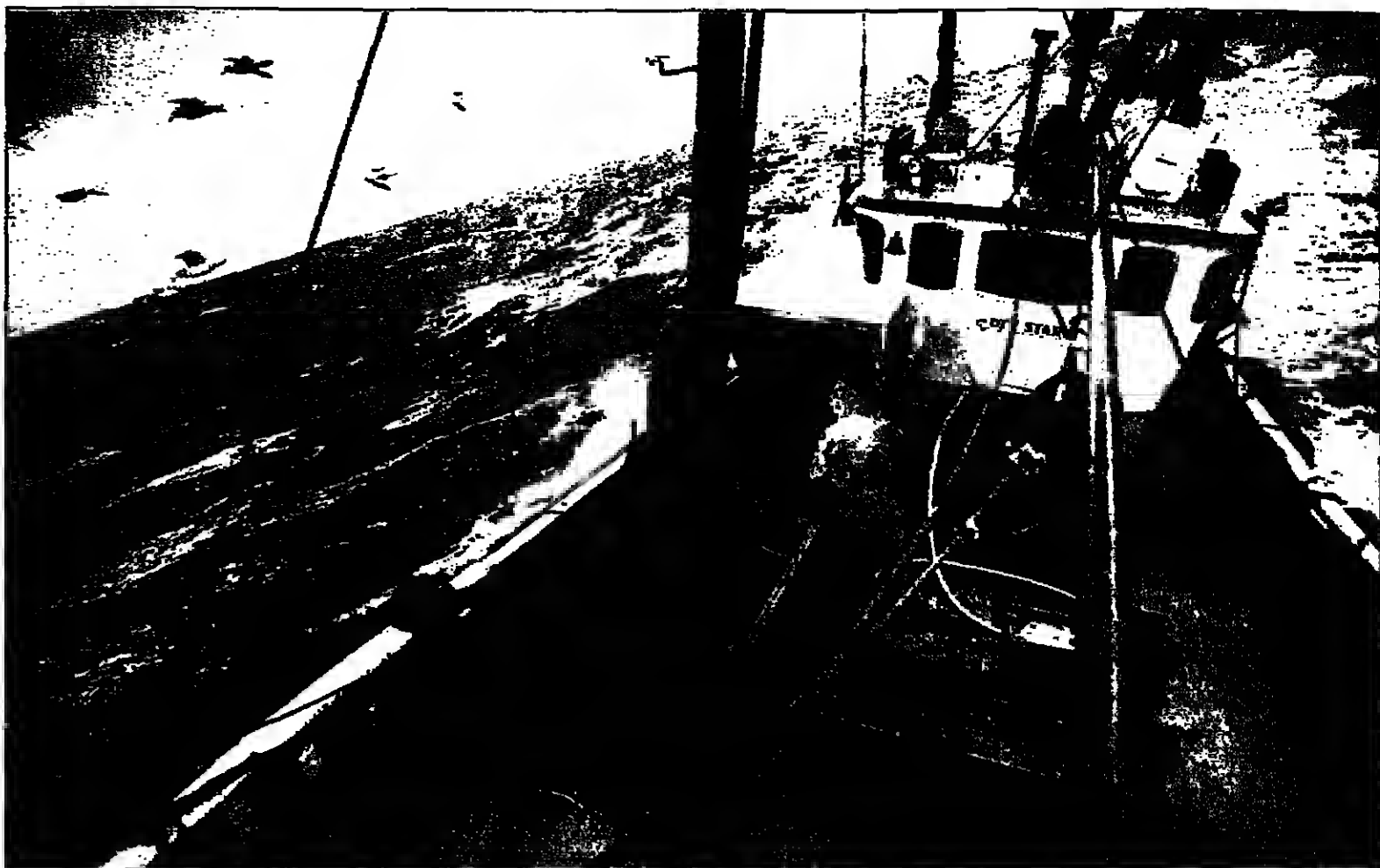
Relatives of the dead men have long suspected that the

vessel may have been sunk while on a spying mission for British intelligence to monitor the movements of the Soviet fleet.

A government survey vessel was sent to the wreck some 20 miles off the port of Tromsø to gather vital evidence about the sinking.

A new report on the tragedy is expected later this year, although Mr Prescott warned that such exhaustive surveys might not always be possible due to the high cost of the techniques.

"However, we are considering ways of making the equipment available on a more regular and affordable basis to the MAIB," he said.



Commercial pressures have led to fishermen in boats of all sizes taking greater risks at sea

Crispin Rodwell/Reuters

The three-day dash that claimed four mates

THE FIVE-MAN crew of the *Sapphire* were known as the A-team, capable of pulling in £1,000 a week each.

Their speciality was three-day return dashes within a 60-mile radius of Peterhead in Scotland.

They netted the freshest fish; they sold it at the best prices. But as Sir Walter Scott wrote in *The Antiquary*: "It's no fish ye're buying, it's men's lives."

On 1 October last year, Victor Podlesny, 45, Adam Stephen, 29, Robert Stephen, 25, and Bruce Cameron, 32, set out on the voyage that was to cost them their lives.

Sapphire's skipper, Victor Robertson, 27, was the sole survivor, and it was not until two and a half weeks later that the wreck of the 22-metre, 76-tonne trawler - built in 1987 by Victor Robertson's father, Billy - was located, lying on its side in a gully, 82 metres down.

It was a tragedy that struck at the heart of the Aberdeenshire town.

Raymond Fraser, of Peterhead Fishermen Limited, said: "I've been involved in tragedies before where one man has been lost, but never a whole crew bar one."

Craig Egner, of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, added: "The tragedy reminds us of all the dangers involved in fishing."

John Stuart, a fisherman who gave evidence to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch, said: "The *Sapphire* was well known as being a floating basket."

"It was a vessel that I wouldn't go in. It was an accident waiting for a time and a place."

CLARE GARNER

My bad dress sense, by Branson

RICHARD BRANSON, head of Virgin, said yesterday that one of the reasons for creating a clothing company was the need to improve his own dress sense.

Mr Branson, the billionaire who has been voted Worst Dressed Man, was speaking from his home on the Caribbean island of Necker as his latest addition to his corporate stable - Virgin Clothing - was launched in the United Kingdom.

After two years of consumer research the label's first "urban collection" for men and women, with a footwear range, went on sale yesterday.

Prices start from about £75 for a pelmet skirt to £680 for a leather coat.

Speaking on a live video link Mr Branson, dressed in an open-necked blue Virgin shirt, said that he believed the fresh attitude of Virgin would fare well in the fickle world of fashion.

He said: "I think that Virgin has an advantage in that people generally trust the name. They have the general impression that the quality will be really good. Virgin, around the world, is a brand that's well respected and people seem to like the clothes."

The clothes have been on sale at Selfridges in London.

BY EILEEN MURPHY

The range will go nationwide next month and the Virgin boss said it would not be long before the label makes its way around the world.

As for competition, Mr Branson says that the poster advertising the collection, which forms part of the £3m launch, sums it up.

Over a picture of the boss wearing one of his infamous "loud" jumpers runs the slogan "Giorgio designs. Ralph designs. Calvin designs. Don't worry, Richard doesn't."

"These people are real designers and I'm not, but we have gone out and found some of the best new designers in the world," Mr Branson said.

"In the future I'm hopefully going to start looking a bit better, more smart. That's one of the reasons for starting up a clothing company. From now on I will only wear Virgin clothes, of course."

Virgin Clothing's chief executive, Simon Glasgow, explained that the collection's target market was the 18 to 34 age group and the clothes were at the upper end of the fashion market, although he said: "People who buy Prada won't really be buying Virgin."

TERENCE BLACKER

'Who really cares if the word "phwoah" is now officially part of the English language?'

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2

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Gym industry now worth healthy £1bn

IT'S LUNCHTIME, the techno music is thumping and six lean men are sprinting nowhere fast. Rivulets of sweat trickle down their faces as they pant through a mini-marathon on the treadmill.

Across the road is the Tower of London, where traitors and heretics once met an excruciating end on the rack. Here, in the Espree Health Club, the instruments of torture are more sophisticated: rowing machines, chest presses, triceps extensions.

This is the fitness industry in the late 1990s. Fifteen years ago, choice was limited to spartan gymnasiums run by local councils, over-chlorinated swimming pools or the private tennis clubs found in snooty suburbs.

The explosion of private gyms and health clubs has changed the face of keeping fit. There are now more than 2,000 centres, accounting for an industry worth £1bn a year. In a report published this week, Greig Middleton, the City stockbroker, forecasts that another 300 centres will open in the next three years.

It is all very different to the days when exercise meant a round of circuit training or thrashing out 20 lengths in the pool. In modern clubs, you can work out on state-of-the-art equipment, attend an aerobics class, take a sauna and finish off with a massage and facial, all in spotless and pampered surroundings.

You will also pay through the nose for it. At the swanky Chelsea Harbour Club – once frequented by Diana, Princess of Wales – members pay £2,700 to join and then an annual fee of £1,250. The club was sold yesterday for more than £22m.

Even the more down-to-earth establishments do not come cheap. It costs up to £100 to join one of the popular no-

BY KATHY MARKS

frills clubs in the Fitness First group, and then £30 to £40 a month in membership.

Nevertheless, private gyms are big business. What started as a "yuppie" fad in the 1980s – when a well-toned body went with a power suit and mobile phone – has entered the mainstream. The fitness culture has taken root in society. Belonging to a gym is a lifestyle statement.

Many large companies provide a health club, while others pay or subsidise membership for their employees. One of the most lucrative areas of the market is women-only gyms.

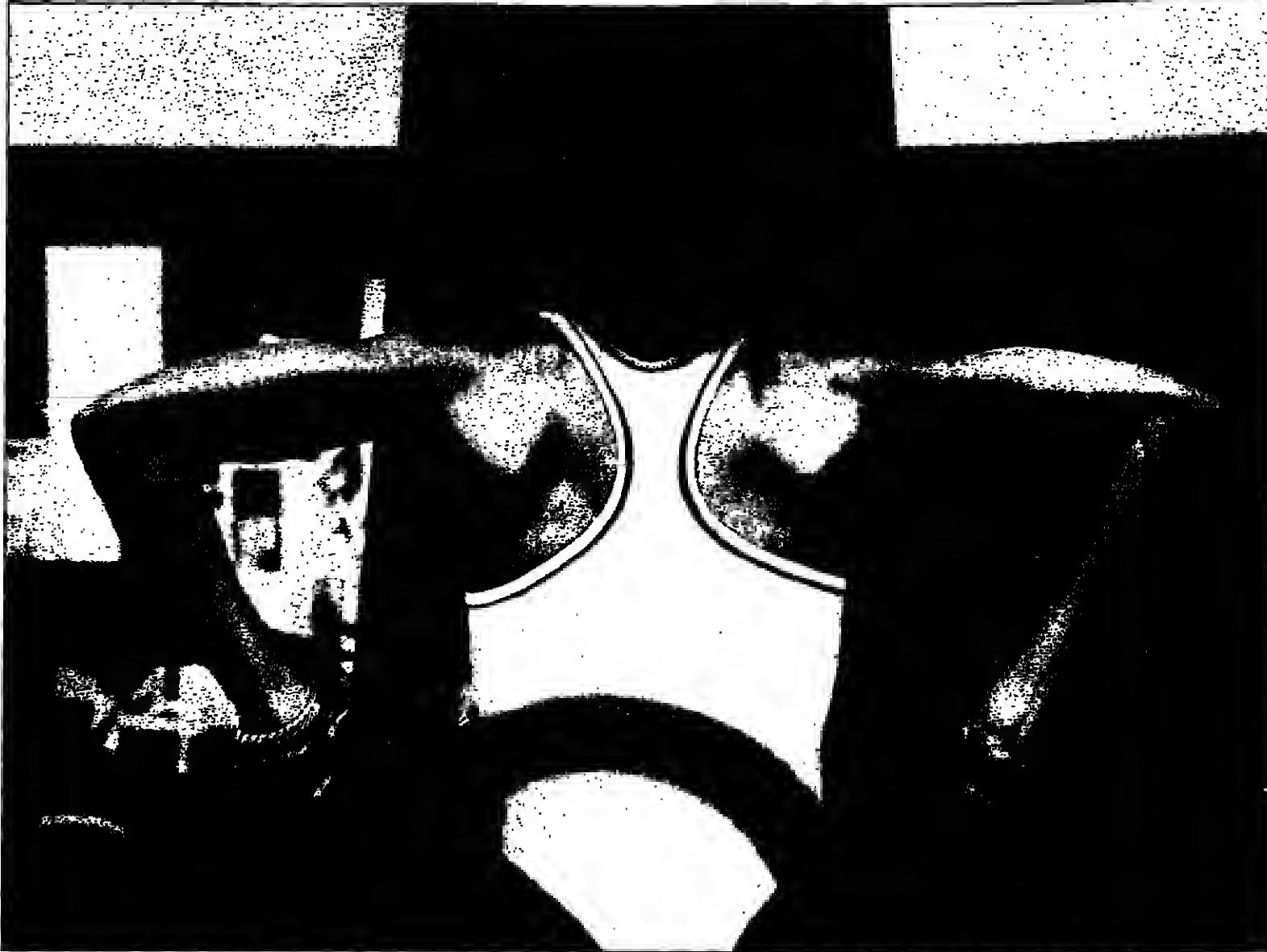
Even overfed politicians are starting to see the light. Recently opened in London is The Club at County Hall – located across the Thames from Westminster. Open 24 hours a day, it offers valet parking and is perfect for pumping iron after a late-night vote in the Commons.

But the origins of the industry lie in vanity, not health. In America, it all started on Muscle Beach in California, where steroid-laden Adonises performed weight-lifting exercises for an admiring audience.

In Britain, too, in the early days, working out equalled men lifting large chunks of metal. Jane Fonda, the aerobics queen, changed all that – making dance studios into unimposing places and sparking the mass entry of women into the market.

Then, about 12 years ago, came the arrival of the cardiovascular machines that are the mainstay of today's clubs – a key development, since they removed the necessity to expose one's physical limits to others in a group situation. They meant that you could get fit on your own, at your own pace.

Peer pressure, with a dawning realisation that a flabby body is not an asset, accounted for



A woman working out at the Espree club yesterday. Business is booming and the industry goes from strength to strength. Andrew Buurman.

the fitness craze of recent years. And by paying to join a club, people found convenience of location and longer opening hours than at their local sports centre.

They also managed to avoid the noise and bustle of children, although one of the most suc-

cessful chains, founded by the former tennis star David Lloyd, is aimed at the family market.

Laurence Akin, managing director of Holmes Place, a leading operator, believes the social side is a big draw. "It's

the feeling that you've joined a club, as opposed to simply working out," he said. "A lot of friendships are forged in our club rooms."

There is still a great deal of scope for expansion. Sarah Williams, of the Health Educa-

tion Authority, says that, even now, only 40 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women take enough physical exercise. She points out, though, that up-market gyms are beyond the financial reach of most of the population.

The technology has not altogether banished the macho spirit of competition that spawned the fitness boom. "I suspect that some men just come here to show off their muscles," said Joe Baker, 46, mopping his brow after a pun-

PROFITS FROM FITNESS

The number of fitness clubs in the UK has grown from 1,980 in 1992 to 2,200 in 1997, according to Mintel, the market researcher.

Investment in the sector over the next three years could reach £750m, analysts predict. That could translate into 300 new clubs and 750,000 new members, according to Nick Batram, a leisure analyst at the stockbroker Greig Middleton.

The gym and health club business is now worth £1bn a year, a 58 per cent increase in five years. Two million people were members at health clubs last year compared with 1.6 million in 1993. On a three adults would like to join a club, says Mintel.

David Lloyd Leisure, the chain started by the former tennis player, was worth an estimated £30m in 1993. In 1995 Whitbread bought its 13 clubs for £200m. The chain now has more than 20 clubs and 100,000 members.

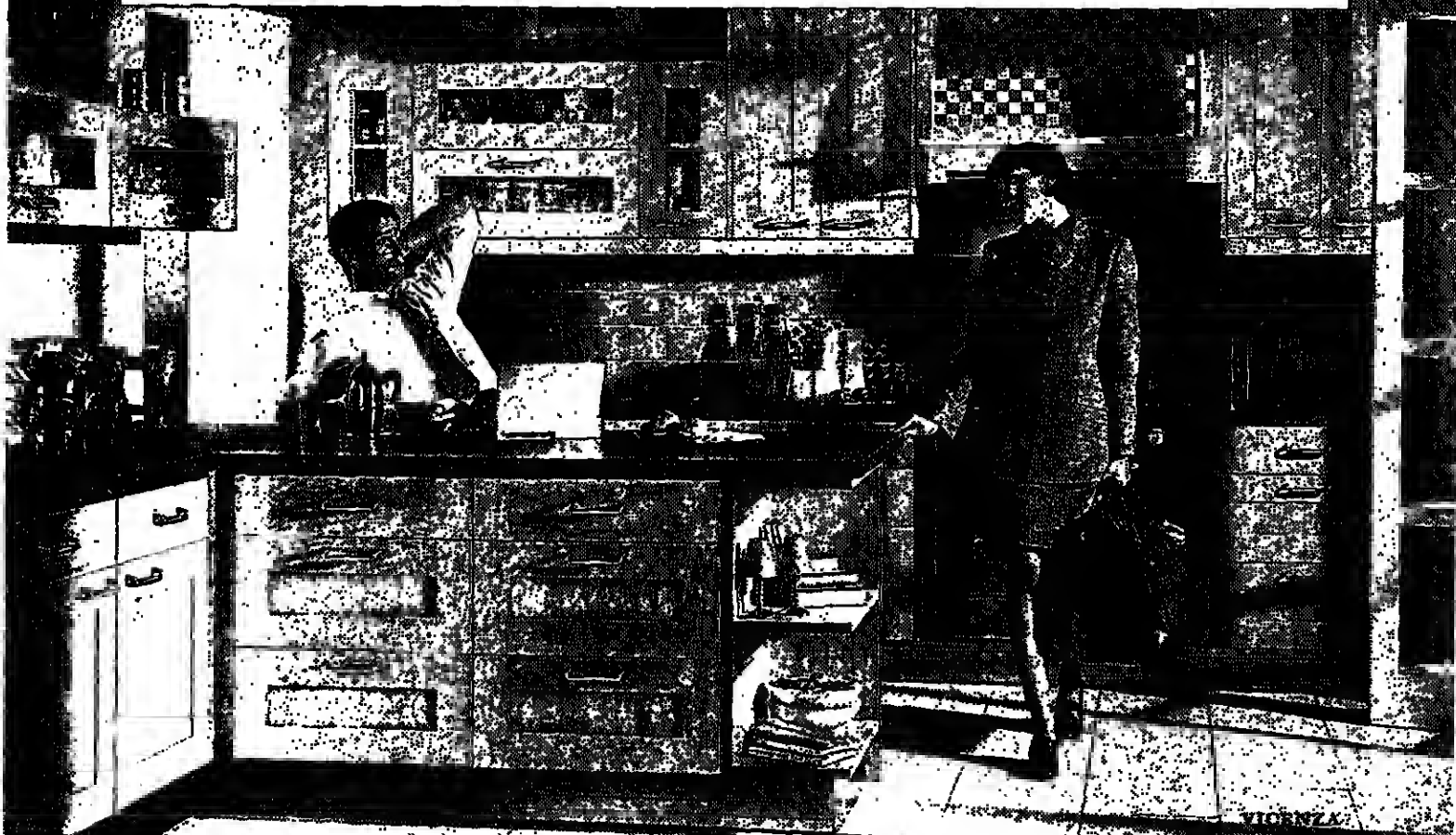
The average cost of annual membership of a club last year was £340.

ishing session at Espree yesterday.

"Look," he said, pointing to one glistening young buck lingering in front of a mirror. "I bet that one doesn't half think he's gorgeous."

Business, page 13

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THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 21 August 1998

FOREIGN NEWS/9



TV cameramen from CNN and APTV (right) taking positions on cranes yesterday while waiting for a glimpse of Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern



AP/J Scott Applewhite

Monica returns to grand jury

THREE DAYS after the President of the United States admitted an "inappropriate" relationship with her, Monica Lewinsky was back before the grand jury to give more details of what both now acknowledge were sexual encounters in the White House.

Ms Lewinsky, who has said nothing in public since the first reports of the affair in January, was said to have been angered by the unapologetic tone of Mr Clinton's televised admission.

The White House, meanwhile, confirmed that Mr Clinton had raised no objections to

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

a sample of his DNA being supplied to the FBI laboratory that was testing a dress owned by Ms Lewinsky. The dress, surrendered by Ms Lewinsky under the terms of her immunity agreement with the prosecutor's office last month, was rumoured to be stained with semen.

That prosecutors requested presidential DNA suggests that tests on the dress (which have been the most successfully guarded secret of the saga) proved positive and that the sample is required to establish a "match" with Mr Clinton. The President's admission

under questioning on Monday that Ms Lewinsky did - as she had testified - perform oral sex on him has diminished the public shock and distaste that the DNA revelation would have provoked even a week ago.

It did nothing to dispel the suspicion that without the evidence of "that dress" Mr Clinton might have persisted much longer in his denials of sexual activity with Ms Lewinsky.

These suspicions, coupled with the gathering impression that Mr Clinton lied in January when he could not "recall" being alone with Ms Lewinsky, led some pollsters to forecast a drop in Mr Clinton's buoyant popularity ratings. Although the latest polls show that almost

60 per cent of those asked believe Mr Clinton could put the Lewinsky affair behind him, almost half said he should consider leaving office if he lied in January, while 66 per cent said he should leave if he lied to the grand jury this week.

John Zogby, who polls mostly for the conservative media, said: "The issue has turned from sex, which very few people want to talk about, to lies... the trend is definitely going against Clinton."

Deceit and the accusation against Mr Clinton of obstructing justice were said to be behind the recall of Ms Lewinsky to the grand jury yesterday. In particular, the prosecutors were said to be interested in

disparities between Ms Lewinsky's account of how and why she returned presents from Mr Clinton and the account offered by Mr Clinton.

The gifts were placed in the care of Mr Clinton's personal secretary, Betty Currie. But it has not been established whether their return was instigated by Ms Lewinsky and/or her mother, worried lest the relationship with Mr Clinton become public, or whether the President engineered their return.

The latter could contradict Mr Clinton's statement after his testimony on Monday that "at no time did I ask anyone to lie, to hide or destroy evidence or to take any other unlawful action", and support accusations

that he tried to keep evidence of their relationship (and his earlier false testimony) from the prosecutors.

What was said to have "outraged" Ms Lewinsky about Mr Clinton's admission was the inference that her relationship with him amounted to no more than "sexual servicing". She was said to have believed that the relationship was emotional as well as sexual.

By mutual admission, their affair lasted for the best part of two years: from the government shut-down of November 1995 (when trainees filled in for laid-off White House employees) until at least Labour Day - in early September - 1997.

Ms Lewinsky's adverse re-

action was said yesterday to have compounded worries in the White House camp about the longer-term public response to Mr Clinton's admission.

White House staff accompanying the President for his holiday on Martha's Vineyard, were said to be panicked by the hostile political reaction and the reluctance of leading Democrats to come to Mr Clinton's aid.

The attorney general, Janet Reno, followed the Secretary of State and other members of the Administration in expressing confidence in Mr Clinton, praising his "dedication to the issues of government". But she eschewed any reference to the President's credibility in office, which is now his Achilles heel.

Quebec denied right to quit Canada

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

CANADA'S SUPREME Court tossed a hand grenade into the rancorous debate over the French-speaking province of Quebec yesterday. The court ruled that the Quebecois have no unilateral right to secede, but must negotiate their way out of the confederation if they wish to go.

The issue was raised after a referendum in 1995 saw Quebec within an inch of voting to quit Canada. The Parti Quebecois, the separatist party that has led the drive for sovereignty, argued then - and continues to do so - that if it won a referendum, it would have the right simply to cut loose and leave. This threat is partly aimed at gaining concessions from the rest of Canada in the event that Quebec wished to renegotiate an association with Canada.

The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that no such right of unilateral independence existed in Canadian law or international law. The court agreed that "the continued existence and operation of the Canadian constitutional order cannot remain unaffected by the unambiguous expression of a clear majority of Quebecers that they no longer wish to remain in Canada". But, it said, "the primary means by which that expression is given effect is the constitutional duty to negotiate in accordance with... constitutional principles".

The verdict will reinforce the view of many Quebecois that the federal institutions are set against them.

The court verdict creates a potentially dangerous situation. Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard, the PQ leader, is likely to press for a unilateral declaration of independence, which would put him outside the law. But the Canadian government probably would be unwilling to confront him over the issue, since it would create a stand-off that could only help him in a referendum.

FBI chief visits Tanzania embassy

THE DIRECTOR of the FBI, Louis Freeh, toured the damaged American Embassy in the Tanzanian capital of Dar es Salaam yesterday after flying from Washington to pursue investigations into the bombing. Mr Freeh said investigators had as yet reached no conclusions about the possible involvement of two men still being held by Tanzania in connection with the bombing, al-

BY RODRIGUE NGOWI
in Dar es Salaam

though another FBI agent told reporters they would be right to assume a link between the nearly simultaneous bombings of the mission in Dar es Salaam and in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Mr Freeh met FBI agents and Tanzanian officials who have been investigating the

bombing in which 10 people - eight Tanzanians, one Kenyan and one Somali - died.

"We haven't made any conclusions that anybody being held here is connected at this point to the bombing," Mr Freeh said. "But we do want to continue to work with our colleagues here to interview not just those individuals, but others who may have information."

Tanzania's Home Affairs Minister, Ali Ameli Mohammed, confirmed that two men of 14 originally detained are still in custody, but would not give their names or nationalities.

Mr Freeh was expected last night to travel on to Nairobi. Kenyan police said last week they were holding "at least five people" in connection with their inquiry into the Nairobi bomb-

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IN BRIEF

EU warns of winter crisis facing refugees in Kosovo conflict

A TOP European Union official warned that there will be a humanitarian crisis if refugees in Kosovo cannot return home before winter. Emma Bonino, the EU commissioner for humanitarian affairs, said 231,000 people had left their homes and were hiding in the woods, where many of them were already suffering from malnutrition.

Talks to end Hyundai strike

SOUTH KOREAN government mediators reported progress in negotiations to end a month-long strike by 5,000 workers at Hyundai Motors, the country's largest car maker. The government has 15,000 riot police standing by to break the strike if the talks fail.

Indonesia ends army crackdown

THE BURMA democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi offered to end her roadside stand-off with the military regime if the government freed jailed members of her party. She was stopped while driving to the city of Bassein to meet party members and has been in the car for nine days.

India bars calls to sex lines

INDIA SAID it was blocking access to international numbers used for telephone sex, as they were a drain on the moral fibre of the country. The Communications Minister, Sushma Swaraj, said many children and adolescents had been calling such numbers.

PHILIP HENSHER

'Humanity outgrows things; it has outgrown animism, it is outgrowing imperialism, it will outgrow Christianity'

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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Congo Civil War: President Kabila vanishes from besieged capital as his rag-tag army stumbles in key battle

Boy soldiers fail to halt rebel tide

RWANDAN-BACKED rebels, poised to overthrow Laurent Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, taken the last important town in their relentless march on the capital, Kinshasa.

Rebel forces said they had overrun Mbanza Ngungu, 80 miles south-west of Kinshasa, and were consolidating their position, though President Kabila's government denied its last stronghold had gone.

The rebels also offered to talk to Mr Kabila, but their military advance continues. No one in government would reveal the whereabouts of President Kabila, who has disappeared from Kinshasa. It is rumoured he is already holed up in Lubumbashi, Katanga, his tribal homeland.

Rebel successes are hardly surprising given the state of Mr Kabila's army. The experience of 18-year-old Coco Banyele is typical. On Wednesday he was a brave volunteer, trying vainly in the sweltering heat at a stadium car park to learn enough soldiering to help liberate Congo from advancing rebel armies. By yesterday he was in forced retirement, a victim of government disorganisation.

The beleaguered Mr Kabila

By ROSS HERBERT
in Kinshasa

has vowed to turn back his fast-advancing enemies by turning citizens into soldiers, hopefully backed up by troops from neighbouring countries. But if activities in the stadium car park are any indication, the prospects for his regime are not bright.

For five days Mr Banyele milled about with others in the car park, clumsily trying to learn co-ordinated military marching. Some of the bony recruits stumbled, careering into each other and occasionally fell. Left-right-left was interspersed with lectures about duty and staying calm. There was no food, no water and no apparent plan to give them weapons training or move them to the front.

Eventually tempers flared and a riot seemed possible. Other troops had to be called in to disperse the thousands of would-be soldiers, who were told to stay at home until further notice. "We want to fight, but the authorities were only giving us lessons on marching and morals about being calm. They don't give us food or anything," said the still patriotic Mr Banyele.

Another element in the unhappy mix that makes up Mr Kabila's army has been thousands of soldiers from the infamous mercenary forces of the former dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko. In Kinshasa on the Atlantic coast, thousands of former Mobutu soldiers had been interned in a re-education camp. Mr Kabila did not trust these hard-core Mobutists enough to join the army so kept them there, where they dined on much propaganda and little food.

According to diplomats, Tutsi-backed rebels succeeded in enlisting many of the Kinshasa Mobutists to the anti-Kabila cause.

As the war has progressed the former Mobutu fighters have, according to diplomats, succeeded in convincing many more Kabila soldiers to defect. As one Western diplomat said, the road from Kinshasa down to the western front "seems to be a sort of Bermuda Triangle. They keep pouring in men and materiel and nothing seems to be coming out."

Meanwhile, an incident in Kinshasa on Wednesday encapsulated the mood that has overtaken the city. An emaciated teenage boy crept out of the bushes on the river front in

search of food. In grimy shorts and a blue T-shirt caked in filth, he approached roadside traders.

"Rwandan! Rwandan! What are you doing here?" shouted the men, who quickly encircled the frightened boy. "I am not Rwandan," he pleaded. "I am not Rwandan. I am looking for food."

Hands pushed, slapped and punched at him, enraged by his long neck and distinctly Tutsi-like features. Faces, twisted in rage, shouted "kill him, kill him". Within moments two camouflage-clad soldiers totting AK-47s plunged into the swelling crowd and forcibly grabbed the boy by the arms. The shouting and anger flowed through the crowd like an electric current.

The soldiers commandeered a passing taxi and forced the boy inside. "Leave him to us. We will kill him ourselves," shouted men in the crowd.

What the soldiers said was impossible to guess in the noise and jostling. But they laughed as they pushed the boy into the taxi and, just as he disappeared into the vehicle, one soldier leaned forward and drew his extended index finger across his neck - in the sign of cutting a throat.



Women selling maize yesterday at a street market in Kinshasa, Congo

Peter Andrews/Reuters

Mandela tries to stall military aid

PRESIDENT NELSON Mandela of South Africa and the Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, were locked in a bitter dispute yesterday over Mr Mugabe's promise of military aid for the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is besieged by rebel forces.

As the South African Foreign Minister, Alfred Nzo, warned that the Rwandan-backed rebellion had brought sub-Saharan Africa to "the brink of an unprecedented military conflict", President Mandela rejected the promise of soldiers and equipment Mr Mugabe had made to President Laurent Kabila of Congo (formerly Zaire) on Wednesday.

Mr Mugabe has split the 14-nation Southern African Development Community, chaired by President Mandela, with his false claim that military intervention was coming with SADC's unanimous support.

President Mandela was lobbying SADC members hard to support a diplomatic, not a military solution. He and his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, held talks in Cape Town with Sam Nujoma, President of neighbouring Namibia, who has already sided with Mr Mugabe.

Meanwhile in Harare, Mr

By MARY BRAID
in Johannesburg

Mugabe, still bitter at being ousted from power in SADC by Mr Mandela, had harsh words for his political rival. "No SADC country is compelled to help the DRC [Congo] and those countries which want to keep out can do so but should be silent about members who want to help," Mr Mugabe has accused Rwanda of invading Congo.

But Mr Mugabe, whose autocratic rule has sparked widespread opposition in his own country, is also being criticised at home for his plans to send Zimbabwean soldiers to Congo.

Mr Mandela yesterday spoke to Mr Kabila by phone and asked the Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, to issue a call for a ceasefire by rebel forces. Uganda is believed to be supporting the rebellion with its ally Rwanda. It is just over a year since Rwanda and Uganda helped Mr Kabila to oust the long-term dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in the hope that Mr Kabila would secure their borders from hostile forces.

As rebels continued to close on Kinshasa, the Congo capital, Mr Nzo warned that taking the

city would be only the beginning of the crisis, not the end. The rebels are reported to be just 90 miles from Kinshasa. Analysts say they could take the city by this weekend.

Mr Mandela said yesterday he was calling a meeting of SADC and that he "wanted Robert Mugabe to be involved". While Mr Mugabe's offer of military assistance, backed by Angola and Namibia, promises to extend the rebellion into a regional war, South Africa insists that only diplomacy will bring a lasting solution.

"It is for the Congolese people alone to be given an opportunity to decide their own future," Mr Nzo said.

Last year, when it was Mr Kabila knocking on Kinshasa's door, South Africa was again busy trying to bring about a negotiated settlement between the rebel leader and Mr Mobutu. Whatever success South Africa later claimed, the fact was that the situation was resolved through the barrel of the gun.

Rwanda's minority-led Tutsi government is backing the rebellion because the Hutus responsible for the 1994 genocide of 800,000 Tutsis are still using the eastern reaches of Congo as a base from which to launch attacks on Rwanda.

Knife attack on TV host rocks Hong Kong

HONG KONG reacted angrily yesterday to a bloody attack on a prominent talk show host and urged police to hunt down his two knife-wielding assailants.

Albert Cheng, renowned for his acid tongue, was attacked on Wednesday in broad daylight by two men with carving knives who left him with six deep wounds. Doctors say Mr Cheng, who had to have six hours of surgery to repair broken bones in his right arm and leg, is recovering.

"He is in intensive care and has regained consciousness. His condition is stable and he is recovering well," a spokeswoman at Queen Elizabeth Hospital said. But tests are needed to establish if he will ever regain full use of his hands, she added.

Mr Cheng was attacked outside a radio station in Kowloon just before he was to go on air for his popular daily show. It shocked this territory of 6.6 million people and provoked a storm of condemnation.

"We have a society which

By TAN EE LYN

gives great emphasis to the rule of law... This [violence] is obviously unacceptable and this will not be tolerated," Hong Kong's leader, Tung Chee-hwa, said yesterday.

The Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor said: "If a journalist is physically assaulted for performing his duty it is not simply a matter of personal misfortune, it symbolises an attack on the freedom of expression of the community."

Motives for the attack were unknown. A police spokeswoman said the case was being handled by the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau.

Mr Cheng was rated in a Time magazine poll last year as one of the 25 most influential Hong Kong personalities. Mr Cheng emigrated to Canada in 1968 when he became disillusioned with China's Cultural Revolution. He returned to Hong Kong in 1984 to launch the Chinese-language version of Playboy as well as the business magazine Capital, which made him a fortune.

Yeltsin praises Prague Spring

PRESIDENT BORIS Yeltsin recalled the "Prague Spring" yesterday as an attempt "to escape from ideological dogmatism and lies", while Russia's Orthodox Church leader called for reconciliation among people of the former Soviet bloc.

"Peace, to which all people are obliged in the name of Christ, should be based not on political or personal ambitions, but on love and co-operation," Patriarch Alexei II said.

More than 100 people were killed after Soviet tanks rolled into Prague 30 years ago today to halt nine months of reforms - including free speech - never before seen in the Soviet bloc.

The Patriarch said the Soviet invasion brought "much sorrow" to the Czech people. "Similar feelings are caused by memories of bloodshed in Berlin in 1953, in Budapest in 1956 and in Afghanistan in the 1980s," he added.

In a telegram to the Congress of Russian Intellectuals, Mr Yeltsin said: "Even shy attempts of reform called down terror from those who wanted to preserve the totalitarian system." AP

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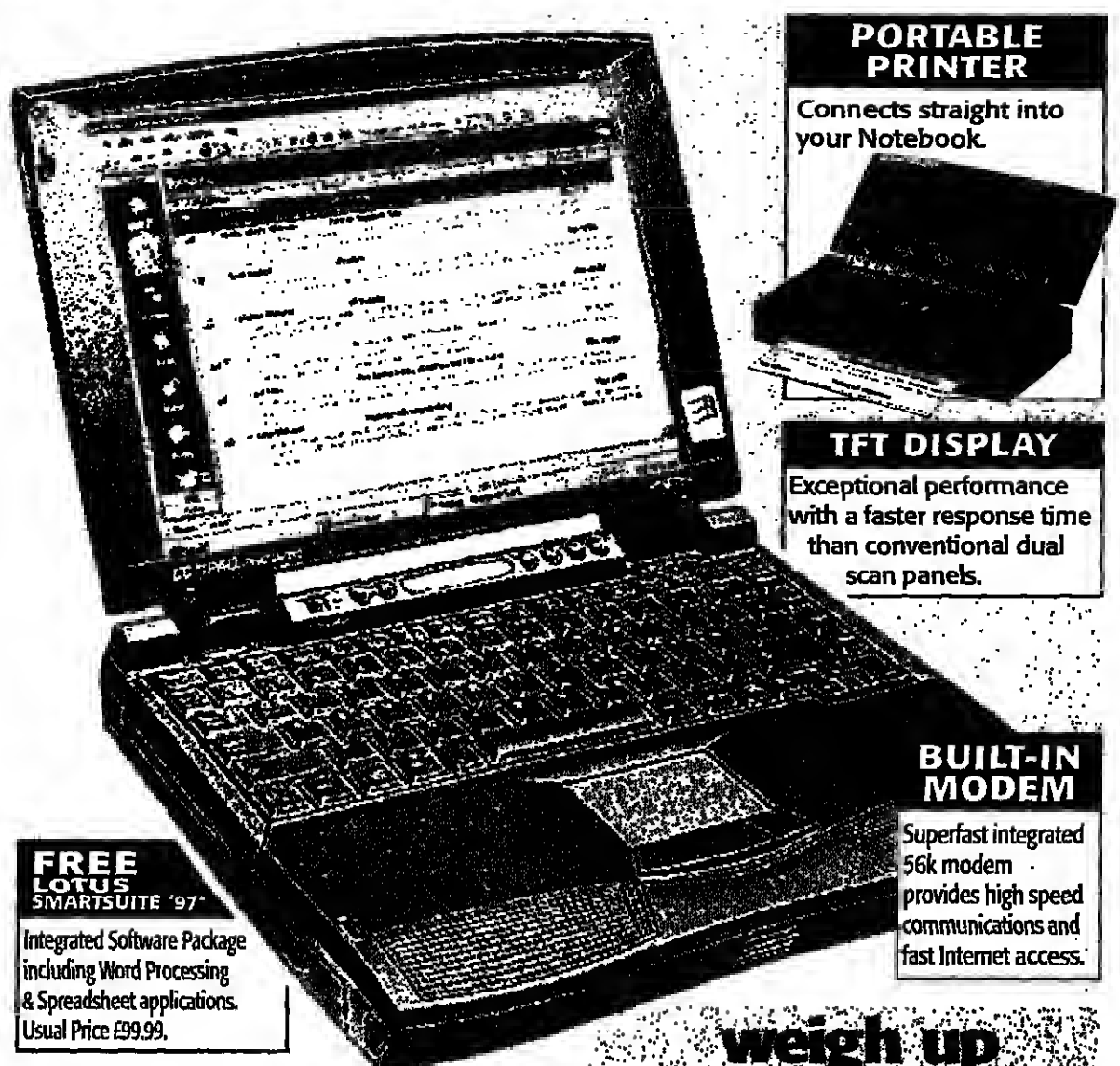
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A Taliban militiaman at Kabul airport photographs Iranian ammunition captured at Mazar-e-Sharif

Taliban prepare for civilian rule

PAINTED ON the walls of the grey office block that is the Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and the Promotion of Virtue are a number of sayings in Arabic. Two of them are as relevant to the Taliban themselves as those living under their rule, cutting to the heart of the dilemma now confronted by the Islamic militia as they face changing themselves from a successful crusading army - in control of about 90 per cent of the country - into an effective civilian government.

"Don't forget God when you reach the peak of your powers," says one. Opposite: "In every breath there is a taste of death. Nothing is permanent."

To establish a stable Taliban government may well mean, to some degree at least, forgetting God. If the Taliban are to be supported by all the various religious and ethnic minorities in Afghanistan, let alone recognised internationally, some compromise on their religious principles will almost certainly be necessary. Otherwise the rule of the Taliban movement may be as short-lived as the regimes that have preceded it.

So far such compromise does not look likely. Last week Abdurrahman Ahmad Hotaki, the Taliban's Deputy Information Minister, said that all policies, from public executions to the requirement that men wear a beard longer than a fist's width, would remain the same. His views were echoed yesterday by two other senior Taliban, the president of Kabul University and a Minister for Internal Affairs, Maulvi Mahmud Waziri, who said: "We do not need to be like any country. We have our own laws and they will not be altered for anyone."

Despite this hardline attitude, the situation is more complex. There are some in the government who realise that the international community is unlikely to recognise the Taliban as the legitimate regime unless they improve their image.

Some also realise that the imposition of their extreme version of Islamic law on the whole of Afghanistan risks alienating much of the population.

The Taliban's laws derive from a mix of Pathan tribal tradition and modern Sunni Muslim fundamentalism. It is alien to much of the country. The more pragmatic among the Taliban know that only a degree of flexibility will keep them in power. But the Taliban face more immediate problems as they try to start running the country. Twenty years of war have denuded Afghanistan of the trained professionals they need.

Some steps are being taken. Over lunch in what was the female students' canteen - before women were effectively banned from higher education - the president of Kabul University explained how he was planning to train a new generation of civil servants. A course in practical diplomacy had just finished, he said, and although only 50 out of 300 had passed he was sure things would improve.

"We have prepared courses in law, agriculture, trade and communication. We are ready to start but we are still waiting for the decree from the government," he said.

He did admit, however, that severe shortages of female teachers and doctors were unlikely to be remedied soon. By ordering women to be taught in separate classrooms, with lecturers and students wearing the burqa, the Taliban have effectively stopped all female further education. Much of the arts faculty has also been shut down - sculpture and music, the Taliban say, are forbidden by the Koran, and economics students are not allowed to learn about credit, debit and interest.

The result is that the only active ministry is the Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and the Promotion of Virtue. It sends out ever more extreme edicts daily. Recently the ministry threatened a house-to-house search for television sets and told the people of Kabul to black out ground-floor windows in case passing men saw women within.

In stark contrast, virtually nothing appears to issue from the rotting, half empty Russian-built office blocks that house other departments.

Many of the ministers are very young - the Deputy Information Minister was 26 when appointed - with no experience of administration. Others were appointed to co-opt various Afghan factions into the regime and are rarely in Kabul. Still more are hardened military commanders who scorn paper-pushing and spend their time at the front. The governor of the state bank is a mullah whose education consisted of rote learning from the Koran. Some, it is rumoured, are illiterate.

Some Western diplomats remain optimistic, however. They point out how badly the Taliban want the Afghanistan seat at the United Nations, which is currently held by the former prime minister, Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose military forces are falling apart in the north. Recognition may mean that a lucrative oil pipeline running from Turkmenistan to Pakistan across Afghan soil might finally be built.

"All the Taliban need to show to the outside world that they can reason and be reasonable," one Western diplomat said yesterday. "Then there can be dialogue. We will find common ground and things will improve for everyone."

However, given the third slogan on the ministry walls, his optimism may be misplaced. "Throw reason to the dogs," it says. "It stinks of corruption."

Voice of Deep South's fading Black press keeps torch alight

AMERICAN TIMES
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI




James Rundles: Robust

James Rundles is a fine writer, which is the main thing that you need to know about him. His column in the *Jackson Advocate*, "Up and Down Farish Street", chronicles life in the Mississippi state capital. It is a mixture of local gossip, state affairs and national politics. It is robust, funny, provocative and direct, written in his own unique style, which is rare enough among American newspaper columnists. Most, these days, are like factory-produced cheese, with a plastic taste and texture.

There is something that marks out the *Advocate* from other papers: it is one of the few remaining black newspapers in America, owned by written by and aimed at the black community. Once, there were thousands of black papers, but as the black middle-class has expanded and black writers have moved into once all-white newsrooms, their numbers have shrunk. The *Advocate* is not only one of the last left, but one of the few to maintain a campaigning standpoint.

Mr Rundles started at the *Advocate* in 1946, straight out of the Marine Corps; after years in local radio, state government and the mayor's office, he returned a few years ago. He was born on Farish Street, once the centre of black life in the Mississippi state capital. "I'm what you call a native son," he says. "I'm writing about home." At 78, he is trim, fit and energetic.

Mr Rundles' big break, ironically, was the Second World War. "I got my first chance in the Marine Corps," he says with pride. He was the first black marine from Mississippi when the Corps started to admit blacks in 1942. It cannot have been easy, at home, or abroad: he landed at Iwo Jima in February 1945, when a Japanese counter-attack took a terrible toll of the black units.

When he returned, he wanted to be a journalist. Newsrooms were closed to black people, so he went to the *Advocate*, as assistant manager and columnist. He stayed for 10 years, then became the first black radio news announcer in Mississippi in 1954.

Mr Rundles carried on writing for the *Pittsburgh Courier* and for the *Chicago Defender*, two other respected black newspapers, covering the civil rights struggle in Mississippi.

The piece he is proudest of, he says, is on the death of his friend Medgar Evers, a civil rights worker who was murdered in 1964. His description of the mourners gathering is tempered with sadness, but underlying it is a quiet, seething rage. Mr Evers' killer was finally brought to justice four years ago.

Mr Rundles is clear about the purpose of the black press and the *Advocate*. "The role of this paper is to be an instrument of truth and information, and an advocate of human rights and opportunity," he says. Above all, it is "an organ of protest".

The black press goes back to 1827 when John Brown Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish founded *Freedom's Journal* in New York. "Too long have others spoken for us," they said.

Black papers mushroomed at the turn of the century. The *Pittsburgh Courier*, founded in 1910, had a circulation of 300,000 in the Fifties and was perhaps the finest paper of the day. During the war, it sent correspondents abroad with black troops; afterwards, it covered the fight against segregation.

"It did all this, of course, at a time when white papers... hired blacks only to operate elevators and covered them only if they killed white people," writes Ron Howell, who teaches journalism at Long Island University.

The *Advocate* started in 1938. The black press "was wildly successful in the Thirties, Forties and Fifties," says Mr Rundles. "There was a story on every street corner, a breaking story. It was usually bad." There were 30 black newspapers in America by the time of the Civil War; by the Seventies there were 2,700. Now, there are less than a third of that number, and more slip under every year.

The papers have suffered from integration as the black middle class has drifted to the mainstream press. Those that remain in the inner cities face declining interest. "For some reason, blacks, and especially young blacks, stopped reading," says Mr Rundles.

The circulation of the daily *Chicago Defender*, which hit a high of 50,000 in the Fifties, has fallen to about 18,000. The *Advocate* is also suffering, with little advertising and low circulation. And Farish Street itself has changed, says Mr Rundles, as we drive past. "It was a hub of black activity for years," he says. Now it is quiet, full of boarded-up buildings.

It may be commercially weak, but the *Jackson Advocate* is still provocative enough to attract attacks. Only this year, the offices were fire-bombed. Mr Rundles is optimistic. He believes in his future, and in that of the black press. "I want to write about what we do and what we can do," he says. Or, as he would say in his column, "Semper Fidelis!"

ANDREW MARSHALL

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BUSINESS

13

BRIEFING

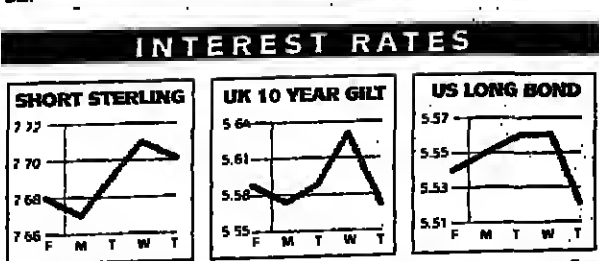
Virgin launches fashion collection
RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin empire yesterday launched its first fashion collection with a range of casual clothing. The launch of the Vie clothing range by Victory Corporation follows a warning from Victory, which so far has focused on cosmetics, that losses this year could be "significantly" bigger than market expectations.

Branson and Virgin Trustees upped their holding in Victory to 34.89 percent on Thursday from 31.2 per cent, saying Virgin was "totally committed to Victory". But even though Victory is only a small part of the Virgin empire, which stretches from airlines through trains to financial services, there are concerns among observers its struggles could impact on the Virgin image. Virgin has dispensed with its hallmark signature-style logo for the clothing and picked a modern, hi-tech typeface for its labelling, centred with a bold double "V".

GKN wins appeal as shares rally
SHARES OF engineering giant GKN rose 22p to close at 757p yesterday as the company celebrated the end of a five year legal battle in the US, in which action was taken against it by 2,500 franchisees of its subsidiary, Melroe Discount Mufflers.

The Court of Appeals in Virginia ruled GKN was not liable and reversed an earlier decision. The case started in 1993 when the franchisees accused GKN of misusing funds intended for promotion. In 1998 GKN was convicted and ordered to pay damages of nearly \$750m. It made provision in its 1996 accounts of \$265m.

C&W sells off mobile operator
CABLE & WIRELESS yesterday moved closer to reaching its target of raising £1bn from disposals when it sold its 25 per cent stake in a South African mobile phone operator for £257m. The move takes the total raised to £960m - in line with the strategy outlined last year by Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, of selling businesses where the company does not have management control. C&W is selling 74 per cent of its holding in Mobile Telephone Networks Holdings to Johnnie Industrial Corporation, the investment group. The remaining 26 per cent will be sold to Transnet, an existing shareholder in MTN.



Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5667.40	-26.90	-0.47	6183.20	4382.80	3.87
FTSE 250	5159.30	-8.80	-0.17	5270.90	4428.50	3.89
FTSE 350	2714.60	-11.50	-0.42	2969.10	2141.80	3.87
FTSE All Share	2636.19	-10.78	-0.41	2886.52	2105.59	3.86
FTSE SmallCap	2322.20	-4.70	-0.20	2793.80	2231.60	3.62
FTSE Fledgling	1286.10	-0.70	-0.05	1517.10	1225.20	4.03
FTSE AIM	998.10	1.40	0.14	1146.90	955.90	1.36
FTSE EBLCC 100	1014.53	-15.45	-1.52			
NASDAQ	6618.87	-74.41	-1.12	9367.84	6971.32	1.72
Dow Jones	15381.41	-14.93	-0.10	19394.14	14488.21	0.99
Hong Kong	7242.53	119.95	1.67	16184.30	6544.79	5.29
Dax	5488.22	-108.19	-1.93	6217.83	3487.24	2.93

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Traders fear huge CSFB losses in Russian crisis

FEARS WERE mounting last night that Credit Suisse First Boston, a leading player in the Russian debt market, is facing huge losses as a result of the latest financial crisis.

Debt market sources said losses could range from \$500m to \$1.5bn. However, CSFB dismissed the speculation as "preposterous" and "way off beam".

A senior CSFB executive in New York said last night: "Anyone who is speculating about our positions doesn't know our positions. Only we know our positions. Until we know what form Monday's restructuring takes, it is premature to say what, if any, losses CSFB has sustained."

The executive said that in the event of Monday's restructuring having a material effect on the bank's financial position, it would make a statement.

The fears, which have sparked concern among staff in London, Zurich and New York that bonuses may be cut because of the dramatic impact on investment banking profits this year, came amid warnings from Moscow that some of the country's 20

leading banks could now fail.

Shares in Credit Suisse, its Swiss banking parent, have taken a battering in Zurich over the last few days. They fell nearly 4 per cent yesterday.

Knowledge of the losses is widespread in emerging market trading circles: traders said they believed them to be "substantial". "CSFB is hemorrhaging," said one Russian debt trader yesterday. "They have some horrible secondary positions." Another said: "They are the market leader, you would expect them to have suffered losses."

The bank, which was the first major Western investment bank to set up in Moscow after the fall of communism, is by far the biggest player in the \$40bn Russian debt market. The firm employs 320 people in Moscow with satellite offices in Kiev and Tashkent.

Other Western investment banks have also been badly hurt over the past few days by the payment halt, although none have been hit to the same extent. The other major players in the short-term government debt market are ING Barings and JP Morgan.

Analysts say CSFB accounts for more than half of the foreign holdings of GKO, the short-term ruble-denominated government bonds. Alto-

gether, foreign banks are thought to account for a quarter of the total market.

The size of CSFB's losses would explain why the bank has been leading efforts to persuade the Russians to honour their obligations to foreign investors. The Russians withdrew their original proposals for restructuring their short-term debt obligations on Wednesday after being warned that they were highly discriminatory towards foreigners and would "permanently damage the Russian economy".

CSFB kept up its pressure on the Russian authorities yesterday with a further warning about the damage the planned debt restructuring would do to the banking system by keeping afloat banks that deserved to go to the wall.

Rival SBC Warburg was yesterday appointed to handle the debt restructuring.

The crisis yesterday spread to the Ukraine. Dealings on the Kiev foreign exchange were halted at the request of the central bank in a move expected to be followed by a devaluation in the country's currency, the hryvnia.

IMF is down to its last \$10bn

JUST LAST month the IMF approved an \$11.2bn (\$6.9bn) loan targeted at stabilising part of a \$22.5bn package. The next tranche is due to be disbursed in September. John Odling-Smee, the British official in charge of Russia at the IMF, arrived in Moscow on Monday, and the IMF's Executive Board is analysing the latest Russian measures, writes Andrew Marshall.

But the IMF has problems of its own. A year that has seen mammoth rescue packages for Thailand, Indonesia, Korea and Russia has severely depleted its resources, and by the end of the year the Fund will have

less than \$10bn to lend. Its liquidity ratio - the ratio between liquid liabilities and uncommitted usable resources - will have fallen to 29 per cent, an all-time low.

The Fund operates in some ways like any bank: it lends on the basis of reserves which are provided by its shareholders, in this case nation-states. It has been trying for some time to top up its reserves, and the US has proposed adding \$18bn to its contribution. This would, in turn, open up the possibility of other states contributing more. But the US Congress is resisting, claiming the IMF's policies encourage moral hazard.

Services and building join slowdown

THE SLOWDOWN in the economy is spreading, with construction showing a sharp fall in output in the second quarter and activity in services at its weakest for nearly two years.

But the picture of moderating growth painted in the latest figures on national output published yesterday was at odds with a pick-up in bank and building society lending in July, and an unexpectedly sharp acceleration in money supply reported by the Bank of England.

The mixed signals left analysts more convinced that interest rates are likely to be left on hold for some time. Stephen Hamann, chief economist at IBI, said: "The consumer still seems fairly robust. There would be have to be a very marked slowdown in money supply as a prerequisite for even contemplating a cut in interest rates."

The latest output figures showed that gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.5 per cent in the second quarter. Excluding oil and gas, growth was a modest 0.4 per cent. Within the total, manufacturing was up by 0.1 per cent, construction down by 2.6 per cent and services up by 0.8 per cent.

The areas with sharpest growth were oil and gas extraction and electricity gas and water supply. Output in these sectors was boosted by the cool spring. Excluding the weather effect, GDP growth in the quarter was just 0.3 per cent.

The picture is of an economy which slowed in the second quarter to around trend growth. Compared with a year earlier



Selling attractions such as the London Dungeon will net up to £70m to fund Vardon's shift to health clubs

Vardon switches to fitness

THE LEISURE group, Vardon, best-known for tourist attractions such as the London Dungeon and Sea Life centres, is ditching both in a bold move to switch its focus exclusively to the fast-growing business of health and fitness clubs.

It is putting its attractions arm up for sale in a move expected to net £60m to £70m, and is spending £22m to buy the Chelsea Harbour Club, Britain's premier fitness club and a cherished haunt of Princess Diana and the former England rugby captain, Will Carling.

The purchase is a key part

of a £160m investment programme to make Vardon the leading fitness business in Europe. It will expand its Cannons chain in Britain by 15 clubs over the next year and open up-market clubs for families in Europe under the Harbour Club name.

The push into Europe will be carried out by a joint-venture company owned 50-50 by Vardon and Peter Beckwith, the property magnate who is selling his half share in the Chelsea Harbour Club. The joint venture will spend £60m on new clubs, starting with one in Milan followed by others in Holland, Belgium and Germany by 2002.

Vardon has already spent £60m expanding its fitness clubs and boasts 70,000 members. It plans to boost that to 150,000 by December 2000.

The expansion will be financed largely out of disposals. Vardon has already pulled out of bingo and holidays, realising £70m, and the proceeds from selling the attractions will fund most of the forward programme, with part of the Harbour Club expansion.

The switch of focus will not be painless. Vardon's results in the half to June show a pre-tax

Midlands seeks supply merger with rival

MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY is in negotiations to merge its supply arm with one of two rival regional electricity companies. This would signal the first serious consolidation in the sector as the domestic market opens up to competition from this autumn.

The decision follows a top-level strategy meeting in Den-

ver, Colorado last week between Midlands and its two US owners, Cinergy and GPU. Roger Murray, Midlands managing director of energy services, said: "We intend to be a national supplier when the electricity market is liberalised. We have had specific discussions with three or four parties and we are now focussing on one or two of them."

He said the aim was to complete a merger in the next three to 12 months. Midlands is not ruling out the possibility of going for a full merger by including its wires business in a deal.

Mr Murray refused to say whether the companies Mid-

lands was in merger discussions with were also US-owned. But he confirmed that Midlands was not interested in making a bid for London Electricity.

Midlands, which has 2.2 million domestic customers, is in the second wave of regions being liberalised, starting in October. It has made a worst-case assumption that it will suffer a net loss of 10 per cent of its customers over the next five years. But Mr Murray said he would "mortify" if the loss was that high.

The company is trebling the size of its doorstep sales force to 600 over the next six months and has completed affinity agreements with Calor and Total to sell LPG and fuel oil

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE FOUR-DAY winning streak came to an end with worries about a possible Russian banking crisis. Footsie fell 26.9 points to 5,867.4; at one time it was off 62.5. Supporting shares also gave ground.

Vodafone, the mobile phone giant, ignored the more downbeat atmosphere, charging 43p higher in heavy trading to a new peak of 90sp, responding to an upbeat investment presentation. EMI, the showbiz group, rose 24p to 52sp on hopes of a German strike.

Derek Pain, page 17

NEW YORK

US STOCKS fell, led by Intel and National Semiconductor, over concerns that computer-chip makers' profits will fall short of expectations. The Dow Jones fell 46.08 to 8551.43 in late morning trading due to "confusion about earnings in the second half of the year." said Robert Streed a Northern Trust money manager. Financial services stocks rallied after AIG agreed to acquire SunAmerica at a premium of 26 per cent to Wednesday's closing price.

TOKYO

SHARE PRICES rose from mid-afternoon by the year's continued strength against the dollar, which blocked further profit-taking. The yen's rally to near 142.50 triggered renewed short-covering in the September futures, helping the Nikkei 225 index move off its lows by spurring index-linked buying, brokers said.

The Nikkei 225 closed down 14.9 points at 15,391.41. But selected international blue chips remained under pressure from overseas investors.

HONG KONG

THE GOVERNMENT waded into the market for a fourth day, trading HSBC Holdings and other blue chips in a bid to protect the Hong Kong dollar's 13-year-old peg to its US counterpart. The benchmark Hang Seng closed up 1.57 per cent at 7,742.53. It has regained 16 per cent since Friday when the government first intervened to punish speculators betting stocks would fall as pressure on the Hong Kong dollar triggered higher interest rates.

GERMANY

THE DAX index extended its losses, falling more than 1 per cent as car maker Volkswagen gave up most of the day's gains, banks and retail stocks were weaker, and chemicals group Bayer was down 5.6 per cent on disappointing first-half results.

The late slide left traders expecting another gloomy session today. German banks, which are heavily engaged in Russia, were hardest hit and their shares extended an already weak performance.

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De La Rue man gets in at the bottom

AFTER A six-month search, De La Rue has finally found itself a new chief executive, Ian Much - the old one, Jeremy Marshall, having been shown overboard for persistently disappointing stock market expectations. Ian who? The City was plainly less than overwhelmed by the appointment yesterday, but actually, he may be the man for the job.

While Sir Colin Hope took the plaudits and the glory for disentangling T&N from its appalling history in the asbestos industry, Mr Much was the man who got on and ran its rump engineering business, and a pretty good job he made of it too by all accounts, with T&N eventually being taken over by the Americans for a very good price.

De La Rue's caretaker chief executive, Brandon Gough, who now resumes his old position as non-executive chairman, reckons De La Rue has now got its strategy about connected businesses of banknotes, cheque counting machines, and bank swipe and smart cards. The only problem is that despite heavy investment in all three, they are still failing to produce the results.

It is hoped that Mr Much, with his reputation for strong operational



OUTLOOK

management, can deliver them.

He faces quite a challenge. Shares in De La Rue, once a FTSE100 stock, have been in more-or-less persistent decline since the bottom fell out of the banknote market in the mid 1990s. There's very little sign of that market reviving.

Smart cards represent a good punt on the future, but it's going to be a highly competitive business and it's not certain De La Rue can translate its present strong position in swipe cards into the new age.

All the same, Mr Much is joining at the bottom and that's always a good opportunity for a chief executive in a hurry. Wait to see details

of his incentive package to assess the potential upside. Mr Much will ensure the get-rich targets are set low enough to be realistically achievable.

IMF fighting the financial fires

MUCH AS we might wish it otherwise, real life is not like one of those AA commercials where a nice man turns up in a yellow van just in time to avoid you having to change your flat tyre yourself.

Substitute the International Monetary Fund for the van with the flashing orange light and imagine one of those cold winter nights when every patrol is out on call. Everyone waits a long time to get service. That's how it is for the IMF right now; it has never faced larger or more pressing calls on its assistance.

Over the last 12 months the IMF has pledged the best part of \$45bn of Western money in fighting the fires now raging around the world's financial jungle. So it is hardly surprising that when Moscow got on the line last weekend to ask for a

further dollop of Western aid, the guys in Washington decided to leave the phone ringing.

The admission from Russia's central bank chief, Sergei Dubinin, that he had blown \$3.8bn of IMF money on a fruitless effort to shore up the sinking rouble, is one of the most astonishing stories yet to have emerged from the financial turmoil that has engulfed emerging markets.

Did the IMF know that this was how its money was being used and if it did, how on earth could it have sanctioned such waste after the lesson of what had happened to currency pegs in the Far East? And if it didn't know, why not? Should the IMF really be allowing our money to be squandered in this way?

Even before this, there was already a growing opposition in Congress to any further bankrolling of the IMF's activities. The immediate beneficiary of aid to the Far East has not been the people of those countries at all, but very solvent Western creditors, those easily capable of taking and surviving the hit.

The immediate beneficiaries of the first tranche of support to Russia seem to have been George Soros and the other New York-based

hedge fund operators who have been attacking the rouble.

The case for IMF support has always been that the consequences of the alternative, a complete banking collapse, are just too awful to contemplate. That, and the package of conditional reforms the IMF is able to impose on these troubled economies. What's now happening in Russia will greatly strengthen the voices of those arguing that this is the wrong medicine, that it would be better to let these countries go to the wall and damn the consequences.

Strong case for quiet reflection

AFTER IT raised interest rates last August, the Bank of England announced what it called "a pause" to see how the economy would develop in the following few months. At the time some observers wondered whether a "pause" meant a "peak", but in November rates were raised again.

The argument for a pause is that time is needed to assess the impact of previously taken policy measures. There is now an equally

strong case for the Bank to announce a further period of quiet reflection.

Judging by recent economic evidence, the next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee should have a relatively easy task. There seems to be no case for a further increase in rates at this juncture, and the case for cutting rates now is also far from proven.

In fact, the evidence points to the conclusion that rates should be left where they are for some time to come.

The latest figures show that the economic slowdown is spreading from manufacturing into services. Investment is taking a hit, and consumer spending is moderating. All this is good news, but the battle is not over yet.

Earnings growth is still high enough to cushion consumers from the impact of small increases in mortgage rates, and indeed mortgage lending in particular and consumer credit in general remains surprisingly robust.

It all adds up to a good argument for the Bank to sit on its hands. There's much to be said for considered inaction. Its time to declare another pause.

ICI rogue trade was a mistake

WE OWE the stock exchange an apology. The rogue trade we commented on yesterday was not a rogue trade at all, we are now told, but a mistake. The buyer of 1,000 ICI shares at way above the ruling market price hadn't intended to buy ICI at all, but Cable & Wireless, and had mistakenly entered the wrong order. The moment the mistake was realised, the seller was only too happy to unwind the transaction. OK, so it was unfair of us to lambast the stock exchange in the way we did over this particular instance.

All the same, to the outside world, as well as most who daily use the stock exchange, this looked like another rogue trade of the type we see occurring all the time. It's not just investors who are angered by what's happening; several listed companies have written to the exchange expressing concern. The stock exchange insists that the clock cannot be turned back now and that all it needs is a little more time to iron out the new system's rough edges. Let's hope it's right.

News Analysis: Rover isn't the only car maker lagging behind Japanese efficiency

Sunderland shows you can with a Nissan

NISSAN'S SUNDERLAND car plant has reinforced its position as the most productive in Europe, producing three times as many vehicles per employee as Rover's Longbridge factory in Birmingham.

The manufacturing workforce of just under 2,800 at Sunderland produced 98 cars per employee last year compared with the 33 cars produced by each member of Longbridge's 10,000 workforce.

Analysis by the Economist Intelligence Unit lends support to claims by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, that the recent job losses announced by Rover had less to do with the strong pound and more to do with increasing productivity.

The Sunderland plant, built in 1985, is one-fifth more productive than its nearest European rival, General Motors' Eisenach factory in east Germany. It is also more efficient than any car plant in North America and better than most factories in Japan, according to the EIU's global audit.

Only two other UK car plants feature in the European top 10 and one is another Japanese factory - Honda's at Swindon.

There's better news for workers at Ford's Dagenham plant in Essex. According to the EIU, this is now the most productive Ford plant in Europe, producing 62 cars per man a year compared with 59 at its Saarlouis factory in Germany. This is one of the two Ford plants on the Continent selected in preference to Halewood to build the successor to the Escort.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Ian Robertson of the EIU said the main message from the annual audit was that, while Japanese car plants remained in the lead, European manufacturers were closing the gap. In 1996 only two European car plants produced more than 70 cars per employee. Last year that figure rose to four.

But the gap between Nissan and the chasing pack has widened: Nissan has improved from 73 to 98 cars per employee, with its nearest rival, Eisenach, going from 70 to 77.

"In Japan, there is greater emphasis on producing cars that are simpler and therefore quicker to build," said Mr Robertson. "That means concentrating on getting the design and manufacturing processes right first time so less time is spent rectifying defects."

Analysis for the Treasury by management consultants McKinsey shows that UK productivity lags 40 per cent behind that of the US and is at least 20 per cent behind western Germany. Productivity in the UK automotive industry is half that in Japan and 20 per cent below that of the US, says McKinsey.

A spokesman for Rover, which blamed the strength of sterling for 1,500 job losses, said it was misleading to compare Longbridge's performance in 1997 with other plants because of the number of different cars and niche models produced there. Last year Longbridge was producing the Rover 100, 200 and 400 as well

as the MGF sports car and limited production models such as the Rover 200 coupé and cabriolet and the Rover 400 Tourer.

"We have made major strides, improving productivity across the group by 19 per cent in the last two years," the spokesman said. "We want to do better but we think we are doing quite well already. We are also investing £600m a year, which will undoubtedly increase levels of productivity."

In the past, manufacturers such as Ford and Rover have complained that comparisons with Japanese transplant factories in Europe are unfair because these are "screwdriver" assembly plants which lack the full range of processes.

However, Nissan's Sunderland plant and Volkswagen's Wolfsburg plant in Germany, which makes the Golf, are now considered to be the two most integrated car plants in Europe. The Sunderland plant made a record 271,800 Primers and Micras in 1997 and production is set to exceed 280,000 this year.

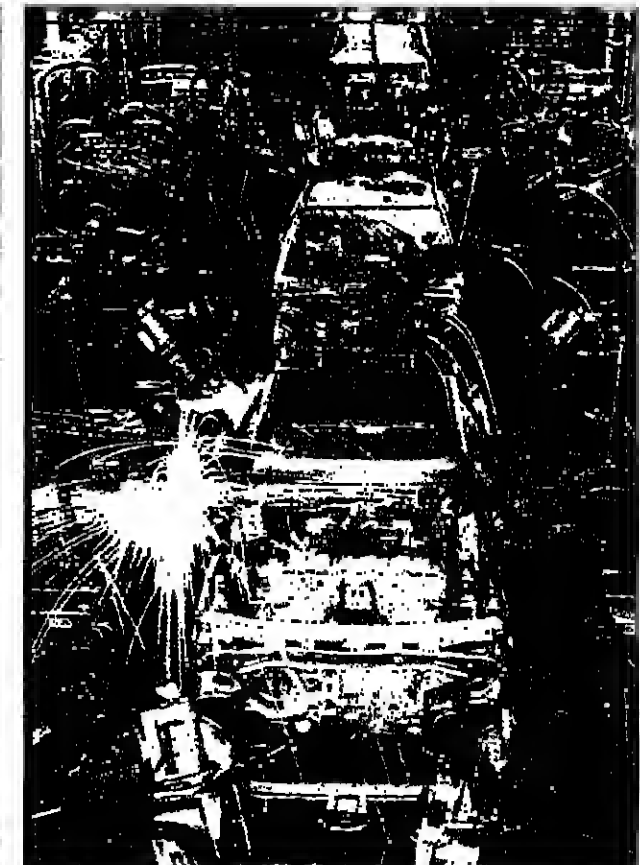
The EIU's audit is designed to produce like-for-like comparisons, and includes workers employed in press shop, body-in-white, paint shop, trim and final assembly and rectification.

Sunderland also houses an engine assembly and machining shop, an aluminium foundry making cylinder heads and exhaust manifolds and a plastics moulding shop.

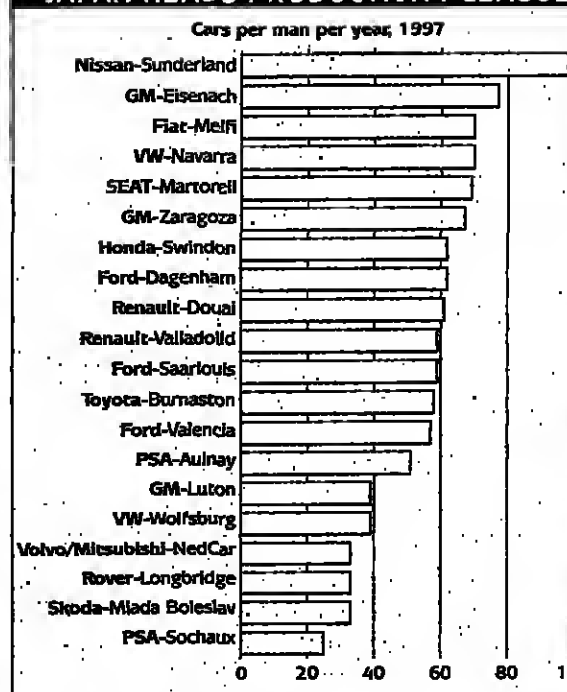
The EIU audit does not take into account model changes which can affect productivity significantly. Honda's Swindon



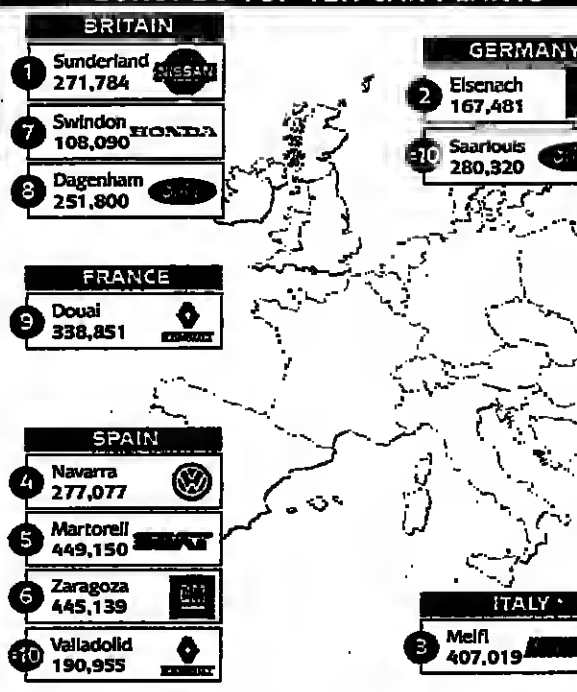
Nissan's Sunderland plant (left) is three times more productive than Rover at Longbridge Northern News/Ret



JAPAN HEADS PRODUCTIVITY LEAGUE



EUROPE'S TOP TEN CAR PLANTS



plant has slipped from fourth to seventh this year, while Toyota's Burnaston factory has gone from third to 12th. The survey attributes this to model changes and the need to take on extra,

untrained employees for the next phase of expansion.

However, Mr Robertson says model changeovers can be opportunities to introduce major productivity gains. For instance

the Ford Ka, made in Valencia, is put together from 1,200 components compared to the 3,000 in a Dagenham-built Fiesta.

Longbridge's productivity is expected to improve this year

due to the workforce cuts and the phase-out of the Rover 100.

But the EIU says GM's Vauxhall plant at Luton, which produces the Vectra, has failed to reach its expected output.

Much goes to troubled banknote group as chief

DE LA RUE, the troubled banknote printing and smart card group, yesterday appointed a former executive of T&N, the car parts engineer, as its new chief executive.

Ian Much, who stepped down from T&N earlier this year following its takeover by Federal-Mogul, the US manufacturer, will become chief executive on 1 September.

The appointment follows a five-month search by De La Rue after Jeremy Marshall, its former chief executive, was forced out in March.

Yesterday Brandon Gough, De La Rue's chairman, said Mr Much had been the board's first choice. "Ian was the guy we thought fitted our specification surprisingly well," he said.

Mr Gough said Mr Much understood international business and had

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

a strong reputation for building a good management team.

City observers were divided on the appointment. "He's not exactly known as a mover and a shaker," one analyst said. "But then at T&N he just got on with the job."

De La Rue shares fell to 9.5p to 244.5p on the news. They peaked at more than £10 in 1995.

Mr Much, 53, spent 10 years at T&N, the final two of which as chief executive. However, for most of his time there he was overshadowed by Sir Colin Hope, T&N's chairman, and his attempts to limit the company's exposure to claims related to its past as a producer of asbestos.

Mr Much, who is believed to have

received compensation of more than £900,000 upon leaving T&N, will earn a basic salary of £230,000. His contract will initially be for a two-year fixed period but will eventually move to a one-year rolling basis.

After Mr Marshall's departure, Mr Gough instigated a strategic review which concluded that the company should sell its cash handling operations and reduce capacity in its banknote printing subsidiary.

However, he said De La Rue's remaining operations, whose products and services he described as "second to none", needed to improve their profitability.

"There's no getting away from the fact that while the strategy sounds good it hasn't delivered the results shareholders need," he said.

Call for utilities to fund accounts for cash payers

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

PRIVATISED utilities were yesterday urged to fund easy-to-use current accounts designed to encourage up to 4 million Britons without a bank deposit to put their money in a financial institution.

A study by the British Bankers' Association (BBA) and Bristol University, published yesterday, found that almost one in 10 adults have no bank account. The authors of the survey suggested that a large number of "the unbanked", usually with low incomes, keep their savings in cash because they need to pay weekly utilities bills and distrust the current paying methods such as Direct Debit.

The researchers maintain that these non-savers could be wooed by a basic account, with instant access to the cash and little risk of going

overdrawn. So far, banks have refused to provide these types of accounts because they claimed they were too expensive to run. But Elaine Kempson, director of Bristol University's personal finance centre and one of the authors of the study, yesterday called on the utilities to link up with banks to set up the accounts.

She said gas, electricity and water companies paid a price for the tendency of the unbanked to pay in small weekly instalments as they have to process more payments. "These accounts" may not be viable for a bank on its own but we need to think more radically about the way we meet the cost of these accounts. After all, much of the saving is used to pay utilities."

Tim Sweeney, director general of the BBA, also called for "partnerships" between the banks and other private sector firms.

The Bristol University study, based on more than 1,000 interviews, found that between 6 and 9 per cent of the population has no access to a bank account. The vast majority of these non-savers, almost 2 million, are people who have never had a bank deposit, largely the elderly and members of marginalised communities.

The highest proportion of unbanked was to be found among women, the over 70s and the unemployed, says the report.

A surprisingly small number of interviewees - around 100,000 - had been rejected by a bank, largely due to a history of credit problems.

Vymura warning

Shares in Vymura, the paint and wallpaper group fell 25p to 110p yesterday after a profits warning. The company said market conditions were "increasingly difficult" and that there was no sign of an improvement. Reporting a slight dip in first half profits to £2.1m (£2.2m).

Vymura said second half profits were unlikely to exceed the interim figures. The board has held talks with Trevor Hemmings, the leisure entrepreneur who has built up a 22.3 per cent stake in the group, but is still unclear as to his intentions.

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COMPANY

Analysts talk up Vodafone to new peak as FTSE falls

INVESTORS DIALLED into Vodafone, sending the shares surging to a new peak. An upbeat analyst meeting was responsible. But such was the intensity of activity that wires were again buzzing with talk of corporate action.

The mobile phone group held investment meetings on Wednesday prompting a 43.5p advance. Yesterday the shares raced ahead 43p to 908p. It seemed that every telecom analyst not on holiday was advocating buying the shares.

Vodafone, it appeared, told a tale of new subscribers flowing in with margins expanding. There were also hints it was looking for acquisitions. However Vodafone itself represents an attractive target. It has for long been seen as a bid candidate and is regarded as becoming even more vulnerable as the globalisation of the telecom industry gathers pace.

Orange, up 15p to 788p, enjoyed a Vodafone spin-off. And Securicor, owner of 40 per cent of the Cellnet mobile phone operation, put on 22p to 530p. BT, which has the rest of Cellnet, missed the party, shading 1p to 848p.

Computer shares were the other stars. With the Micro Focus results still offering inspiration Mysys rose 95p to 2,825p. Sage 55p to 1,487.5p and Sema 10p to 688p. Micro Focus, however, fell 15p to 465p.

Bid speculation returned to bolster financials. Halifax to shoot for Norwich Union was one; Lloyds TSB to descend on an unsuspecting group,

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

anything from Halifax to the Prudential Corporation, was another. Norwich ended 9p higher at 468p. Halifax, which has had a relentlessly monotonous time since it arrived on the stock market last year, fell 20p to 704p.

Lloyds, which has made no secret of its desire to get another major deal under its corporate belt and is piling up its cash resources, fell 18.5p to 776.5p. The Pru jumped 22p to 821p.

EMI, the showbiz group, was also given another takeover spin. The shares rose 24p to 523p on stories Bertelsmann, the German group which has talked to EMI in the past, was preparing to strike. Earlier this year EMI was seen as a target for Seagram, the Canadian group. The shares peaked at 738.5p two years ago.

Footsie's four-day winning streak came to an end with a 26.9 points fall to 5,667.4. Supporting shares gave

ground. The worsening situation in Russia with talk of a deepening banking crisis, combined with an uncertain New York, opening to remove the market's shine.

The 39 per cent Nedlloyd profits fall lowered P&O 30.5p to 814.5p with ABN Amro planning to cut profits estimates and saying sell; De La Rue lost 9.5p to 244.5p on the arrival of Ian Much, ex T&N, as chief executive.

House of Fraser was ruffled by a stream of smallish sell orders, tumbling 8.5p to 106.5p, a new low. The shares were floated at 180p four years ago. They peaked at 228.5p last year but have been hit by declining profits and worries its department stores are suffering in the retail recession. The company said rumours of a profits warning were wide of the mark. Selfridges lost 7p to 234p.

Beers remained flat following the latest round of downgrades. Scottish & Newcastle fell 17p to 792p and Whitbread 9p to 829p. British-Borneo jumped 21.5p to 235p following an oil strike off the Shetland Islands. The well is operated by Conoco on behalf of Atlantic Richfield, Ranger Oil and British-Borneo which was above 500p last year.

GKN, the engineer, firmed 22p to 734p after its long running \$390m US lawsuit was dismissed by the Court of Appeal. The ending of the legal claim prompted some investment houses, including Credit Lyonnais, to put out buy signals.

Imperial Chemical Industries slipped 4p to 686p although BT

Alex Brown said the market was being far too cautious and suggested a price nearer 900p.

Mid States, which distributes car parts in the US, firmed 15p to 21p. The company is back in profit at the half-way stage, producing £1.2m against a £6.5m loss. Dermot Desmond, the Irish millionaire who owns London City Airport, is a significant shareholder.

Electronic Retail jumped 55p to 255p; it has won an order for its revolutionary ShelfNet shelf labelling system from Waresmart. It will be installed in four stores in California. The 27-strong Waresmart chain has already tested the ER system at one of its Californian stores.

Victory Corporation managed to improve 15p to 12.5p as Richard Branson lifted his shareholding to 54.69 per cent, buying 11 million shares at 10p.

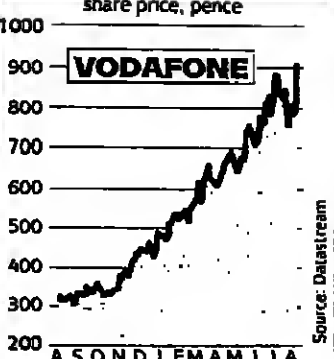
Torex, the computer group, gained 9p to 127.5p after abandoning its bid for Radius and Vardon gained 12p to 172.5p following its health club buy and figures.

Vymura, the wall covering group where millionaire businessman Trevor Hemmings has built a significant stake, lost 25p to 110p after a profits warning.

Aston Villa scored a 22.5p gain to 565p after selling Dwight Yorke and David Unsworth for £15m.

SEAQ VOLUME: 757m
SEAQ TRADES: 47,157
GILTS INDEX: n/a

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



KENWOOD APPLIANCES, the mixer and toaster group, looks in play. Rival Pfitto has made no secret of its bid ambitions and now Glen Dimplex, the Irish electric group, has emerged as a 3.55 per cent shareholder.

Kenwood has struggled for much of the time since it came to market at 285p six years ago. At one time the shares topped 380p. They are 121p. A key 17 per cent stake is held by the UK Active Fund, the aggressive group run by Brian Myerson and Julian Treger.

PROPERTY PARTNERSHIP rose 15p to 252.5p. It is selling its properties and retreating from hotels and opted for liquidation; shareholders are expected to get 29p a share, including a 35p interim dividend.

Brief fling is over for Computacenter

HAS THE City fallen out of love with computer stocks? Shareholders in Computacenter must think so. After all, when the giant distributor of computer products and services joined the stock market in May the affair was still in full fling. But after a brief jump, shares in Computacenter have come tumbling back down again. Yesterday, despite a strong set of half-year results, they fell 9p to 688p - leaving them just 18.5p above the flotation price.

On the face of it, this looks harsh. In the six months to June profits jumped 42 per cent on a 39 per cent increase in revenues. The French business did especially well. And Computacenter picked up new contracts with the likes of the Post Office and the Automobile Association.

However, a number of off factors swelled the figures. A new licensing deal from Microsoft provided a one-off boost to sales. A huge government supply contract contributed revenues of £50m in the first half, but second-half sales will probably be about £10m. Meanwhile, a French competitor's financial troubles allowed Computacenter's subsidiary there to lift sales by 63 per cent.

The company's dependence on reselling computer hardware remains a worry, especially given the success of direct-sales specialists such as Dell. Products account for about 80 per cent of revenues, with services making up the difference. While Computacenter's model of offering a one-stop shop comprising everything from planning to maintenance is compelling, it will provide little shelter if personal computer prices continue to plunge.

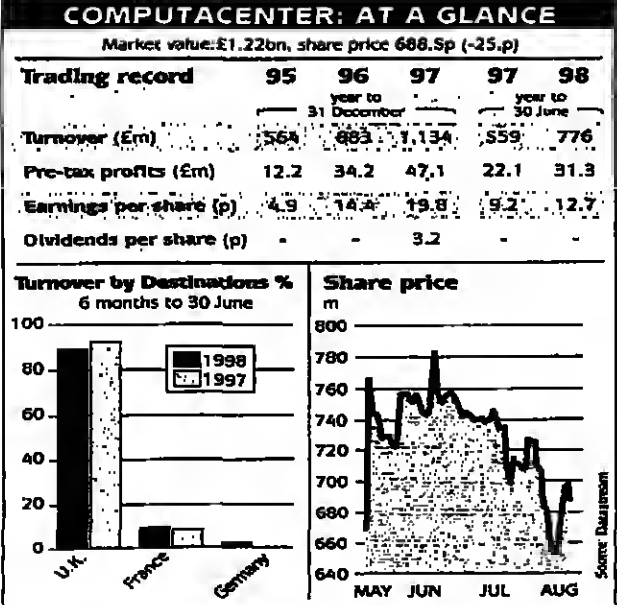
Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, forecasts full-year profits of £58.9m, producing a forward earnings multiple of 32. Computacenter is a solid, well-run business. But until it can show more evidence of growing service revenues - such as through its mooted electronic commerce consultancy - the shares are no more than a hold.

Save survives forecourt fight

SAVE IS the comeback kid of petrol retailing. Against all the odds, the independent forecourt operator has managed to survive the fiercest price war the sector has ever seen.

INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN



Yesterday's results showed that Save is once again pumping out growth. With Esso's offensive coming to an end, volumes are rising again. True, the 2.4 per cent advance in profits to £4.1m was below analysts' expectations and knocked the shares down 5p to 95p. Save believes it can catch up in the second half and maintains that the future outlook is rosy, with oil prices set to stabilise and little prospect of another forecourt price war.

However, doubts remain, especially because Save, with its 4 per cent slice of the market, looks too small to compete with the likes of Esso, Mobil and Texaco. The fear is that if one of the giants launches another price-cutting initiative, Save would be plunged into trouble all over again. It could also be hurt by a rise in oil prices because it has no refineries and must pay the market price for crude oil.

These weaknesses make Save an attractive takeover target. A mystery bidder, believed to be a bank, snuffed around in June, only to withdraw three days later. But with consolidation rampant in the industry, oil giants with a need to expand downstream such as Texaco and Shell could be interested in Save. Given the chance of a takeover and the shares' low rating - on nine times expected earnings of around £12m - Save looks like a good speculative buy.

Metal Bulletin looks solid

IT HAS been a grim market for smaller companies but few have bucked the trend more defiantly than Metal Bulletin. Shares in the publisher of newsletters and other corporate information have soared from 97p in February to 1.412.5p yesterday. Now trading on a forward multiple of 30, the stock is on a 61 per cent premium to the market.

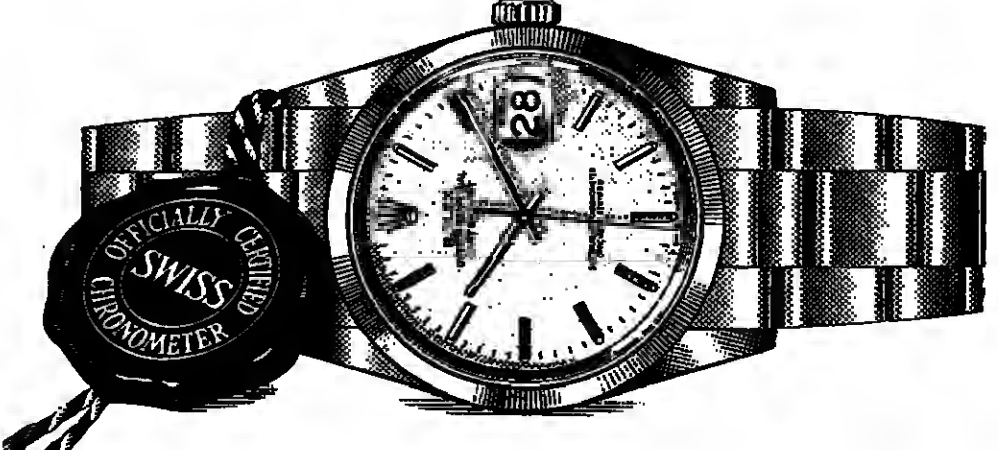
This looks steep, but there are several reasons. One is the perceived possibility of a bid from Emap, which holds a 20 per cent stake. Other factors are the narrow share base and the company's apparent defensive qualities. Metal Bulletin publishes a range of "must have" newsletters for various industrial sectors.

In July it pulled off its largest acquisition to date, the £8m purchase of Energy Information Centre, which produces newsletters and other material for the deregulated utility industries. The idea is to expand the products into France and other markets.

With a cash pile of £8m Metal Bulletin is looking for other acquisitions. Profits rose 11 per cent to £2.2m in the first half and the outlook appears robust. Analysts are forecasting £6.9m for the full year. Solid stuff but after such a good run there has to be an argument for taking profits.

COMPANY RESULTS					
	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day
Norwich	13.45m (10.97m)	23.42p (19.51p)	2.50p (2.63p)	13.10.98	01.09.98
Computacenter	564m (883m)	12.2p (34.2p)	4.3p (14.4p)	7.5p (9.7p)	02.10.98
Metal Bulletin	2.2m (2.1m)	1.77m (1.60m)	1.9p (1.25p)	0.20p (0.20p)	02.10.98
Save Group	34.7m (36.8m)	3.52m (3.16m)	3.4p (3.4p)	3.3p (3.2p)	06.04.99
Esso Group	306.5m (283.7m)	-1.77m (0.09m)	-0.10p (0.00p)	0.80p (0.80p)	12.11.98
Shell Group	27.7m (25.0m)	0.27m (0.20m)	1.13p (1.84p)	0.4p (0.4p)	31.10.98
WTB	5.5m (1.9m)	2.00m (2.247m)	5.50p (6.23p)	1.7p (1.9p)	07.10.98
Vymura	20.9m (20.3m)	-	-	-	01.09.98

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SPORT

Old Trafford boom time for the boy from Tobago

LIKE MOST West Indians they both played a bit of cricket; like most boys they both played a bit of football; as they grew up Brian opted for the latter, Dwight Yorke for the former. In the Caribbean Brian's path appeared more likely to lead to fame and fortune but, with his £12m move to Manchester United yesterday, Dwight Yorke can now eclipse his childhood friend, Brian Lara, as Trinidad and Tobago's most famous export. Playing for the world's biggest club, in the most global of sports, his prospects are infinite.

It is a long, long way from the dusty pitches where Yorke learned his skills and, given his limited international experience, there is a question mark about the fee and his capacity to match it. There should not be any doubts, though, about his potential to justify it.

When he first came to Villa, having been spotted by Graham Taylor on a club tour, Tommy Docherty said: "If that lad makes a First Division footballer, my name's Mao Tse-Tung."

His initial progress was indeed slow with just two goals in his first 20 games but, gradually, Ron Atkinson began to bring out the best from him and he became established. With Brian Little developing both his confidence and know-how, the goals began to flow as well.

While not a natural scorer like Marcelo Salas, Yorke scored 32 goals in 65 league matches in the last two seasons having previously averaged one goal in four (41 in 165). This while being variously paired with Savo Milosevic, Stan Collymore and Julian Joshi.

Ferguson turned down Salas because he did not think he fitted into United's pattern of play and Yorke, with his versatility and movement, may well be more suited. He certainly

United take £12m gamble on striker with the potential to bring the world to his feet. By Glenn Moore

has the confidence and ability to produce the unexpected - as with his cheeky chipped penalties. Little, his former Villa manager, recalls an occasion when Yorke took money off all-comers by juggling the ball more than a hundred times while standing in a barrel.

That said, he has no top-level international experience and has only played a handful of European games. Compared to the £9m-rated Patrick Kluivert or the £11m Salas, Yorke appears over-priced by at least £3m and the size of the fee is indicative of United's desperation.

While the 26-year-old

strike-force with Andy Cole.

This would leave Teddy Sheringham even further down the pecking order, while it also creates a log-jam in midfield with Paul Scholes added to the scramble for a place. Tomorrow's match at West Ham may reveal more, though it is likely that Ferguson will rotate his team according to opposition, fitness and future demands. With the young players still coming through - the defenders Wes Brown and John Curtis were both at this week's England get-together - United look increasingly equipped to deal with the potential joint challenge of simultaneous competition in European and domestic leagues.

There are other trends implicit in this transfer. The signing was undoubtedly helped by Yorke professing a desire to move to Old Trafford - and his threat to see out his contract and deny Villa a fee if he did not - player power, albeit expressed less crudely than by Pierre van Hooijdonk, in action once again.

It would also have been inconceivable even a decade ago that Manchester United's transfer record would have been broken to buy a Tobagonian, but such is the game's global spread that world-class players are emerging from everywhere. That Villa were all but forced to sell him is another telling feature. Villa are historically one of the biggest clubs in Britain and, while they have not won the title for 17 years, they did win the European Cup in 1982 - rather more recently than United. They still attract impressive support and have an enviable stadium but, when United come calling, players want to go.

Doug Ellis, Villa's chairman, said yesterday that Yorke, who was the club's longest-serving player, could achieve what he wanted at Villa Park but the two clubs are now operating at different planes. Dave Woodhall, of the fanzine *Heroes and Villains* echoed the thoughts of many yesterday when he said: "For all the talk Villa can't, or won't, join that top group of clubs in the Premiership. It illustrates a lack of ambition."

HOW THE BARTERING BATTLE UNFOLDED

	£16m Villa's Yorke valuation
£8m	27 July: United's first offer rejected by Villa, who label it "insulting"
£10m	12 August: United make their "final" offer. Villa reject it
£12m	Yesterday: Villa accept "We lost the mental battle," says the Villa chairman Doug Ellis

Bell's mission to leave Wigan on a high note

IF HE was that way inclined, Mark Bell would be a rather bitter, disillusioned figure in the Wigan changing room.

The Australian winger, who plays against Leeds tonight in arguably the most important match of the Super League season so far, has already been told that he is not wanted next season.

But, if he is playing out time at the club, he is determined to do so with some style. Apart from anything else, that will help him to find a club for next season and stay in a country where he has felt thoroughly at home.

"I'm not disappointed," he insists. "That's rugby league. It's the club's decision and it's fine by me. I've really enjoyed my time at Wigan. I came here hoping to play at Wembley and to reach a Grand Final. We lost at Wembley, but we're on course for the Grand Final. Whatever happens now, it's still been a good year."

Bell is no stranger to Grand Finals. He was a substitute in two for his home-town club,

The forgotten man of Super League is relishing the chance to silence his critics tonight. By Dave Hadfield

Canberra, before playing alongside Mal Meninga in the centres against Penrith in 1991. Five years later, he shared in the big day again, this time with St George. It was that sort of pedigree that persuaded John Monie to bring him to Wigan this year, but Bell has taken time to win over the club's demanding supporters.

"It was always going to be hard, because everyone's an expert," he says. "It's a completely different way of playing here, compared with the way I've been playing for the last 10 years in Australia. Plus you have to get used to the players inside you and that doesn't happen overnight."

Bell's position at Central Park has never exactly been secure. When Wigan jumped the gun by announcing the signing of Wendell Sailor in a high-profile deal that was later scup-

pered, it was assumed that Bell would be the man to make way for him.

Further whispers from the Wigan rumour-mill suggested that he was not far from being packed off home, possibly with a face-saving injury story as cover for all concerned.

Finally, when Monie had secured the services of two other Australians, Greg Florino and Brett Goldsiph, it was confirmed that the forgotten man of Central Park would not be back in 1999.

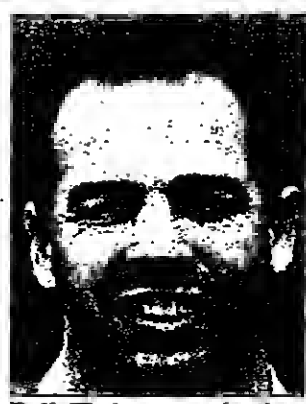
Ironically, Bell's form since then would satisfy the most vociferous of critics. Any positional glitches appear to have been ironed out and he has taken his try-scoring tally for the season to 11. His eight in Super League put him ahead of his opposite winger, Jason Robinson, and include a particularly well-taken and

important brace against London two weeks ago.

Bell is not the sort to beat his own drum, but he says: "My form over the last few weeks has been absolutely sensational." Perhaps, like Henry Paul, he thrives on what others would interpret as rejection. Uncertainty over his future agrees with him.

One certainly, however, is that he wants his immediate future to be in England. His wife is originally from Coventry, with family in Ireland, and the ties they have discovered here make them keen to extend their stay.

That is why Bell has sent out his CV to other Super League clubs. It is a good advertisement, including a season as the Wintfield Cup's leading try-scorer with Wests as well as his Grand Finals with Canberra and St George, but he knows that his real shop window is in matches such as tonight's. "I want to stay, if I'm fortunate enough to find another club, and matches like this are my best opportunity," he said.



Bell: Thrives on rejection

It is hard to imagine Bell not getting another offer. If not, he would not be devastated, because he is a player with a hinterland.

One of the myths about Australian rugby league is that all its players are full-time, but, until arriving in Wigan, Bell, like his fellow-countryman, Robbie McCormack, had always had another job.

In his case, that has consisted for the last three years, of working with aboriginal children in Sydney. As an aboriginal himself, Bell has been involved in programmes, including drug rehabilitation, aimed at keeping some troubled youngsters on the rails.

"It's a demanding job, but a very satisfying one," he said. "If it works out that I go back to that after this season, I'll be quite happy with that."

Two World Cups in four-year timetable

THE GAME has reconstructed its international calendar by setting a timetable - including two World Cups - for the next four years, writes Dave Hadfield.

The inaugural meeting of the International Federation in Sydney agreed yesterday that there will be tournaments in Britain in 2000, involving a minimum of 10 teams, and in Australia in 2002.

Great Britain will visit Australia for a tri-series also involving New Zealand next autumn, with a similar series here in 2001. Britain's nemesis in so many Ashes contests, Bob Fulton, will not be in charge of the Australian side for any of these encounters, as he has announced that he is standing down as coach.

A further meeting this November will extend the calendar on the basis of a four-year cycle, but it is a major step forward for the game just to know what is happening in the short term.

The Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe, said that it was "refreshing and encouraging to find all nations coming to the table with open

minds, determined to rebuild international rugby league. We are now very optimistic about the future."

The meeting also agreed 16 modifications to bring the rules of the game in the two hemispheres into line with each other. Most of them are minor, but one that will be noticeable is that, from next season, the non-scoring team will re-start play with the kick-off. The experiment with doing it the other way around in this country has been of little benefit.

Sir Rodney Walker, elected as vice-chairman of the Federation, has hit back at criticism from Super League and Fassa of his simultaneous decision to stay on as chairman of the Rugby League.

Chris Caisley and Bob McDermott, the chairmen of the two organisations, had expressed "astonishment" at his intention to fill the two roles.

"Negative forces in England continue to undermine my position as chairman of the RFL and the role of the RFL internationally," said Sir Rodney.

He claimed that he had done

what Caisley had asked of him by securing a release for three Super League players who could have been called up by New Zealand during the play-offs at the end of the domestic season and that McDermott had urged him to stay on as chairman.

"I am left with the only conclusion that the statements made in their names have been prompted by others," he said. "It is time that rugby league in Great Britain followed the lead of the international meeting and left all this disharmony behind."

Leeds take an unchanged side to Wigan tonight for a match that they must win to have a chance of taking over at the top of the Super League table.

The play-off system means that finishing first carries no trophy or prize-money and is now merely a means to an end. "But it is an advantage in the play-offs and from a coaching point of view it's important to me," said Wigan's John Monie, who brings back Neil Cowie after a hamstring injury to start instead of Terry O'Connor.



'Seeing what he [Brian Lara] did has spurred me on to be a more recognisable figure,' says Dwight Yorke

Jeremy Williams

DWIGHT YORKE: THE ROAD TO MANCHESTER

1971: Born Tobago, 3 November. 1989: Graham Taylor buys him for £120,000 from St. Clair's after Aston Villa tour of West Indies.

Makes debut for Villa at Crystal Palace.

1990: Makes full debut against Manchester United but does not impress former Villa and United manager Tommy Docherty: "If that lad makes a First Division footballer, my name is Mao Tse-Tung."

1991: Scores first goal for Villa in 3-2 win over Derby. Signs new four-year deal at Villa Park for new manager Ron Atkinson.

1995: Ruptures thigh on pre-season tour of Japan and is ruled out for six months.

1994: Suffers Coca-Cola Cup disappointment when he is left out of the side for the 3-1 final win over Manchester United.

1995: Signs new two-year contract. Knocked unconscious in collision with Coventry defender David Bussit.

1996: Scores twice as Villa come from behind to draw 2-2 in Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg at Arsenal. Goalless draw in second leg sees Villa through.

Scores final goal in 3-0 Coca-Cola Cup Final victory over Leeds at Wembley.

1997: Becomes first Villa player to score 20 League goals in one season since Peter Withe. In title-winning side of 1991.

Atletico Madrid bid of £10m is rejected. Pledges to see out remaining two-and-a-half years of his contract at Villa.

Admits that, at 26, he needs to be "achieving things" saying: "I want to be on the same stage as Ronaldo in the Champions' League."

1998: Misses two opportunities at Atletico Madrid which cost Villa a UEFA Cup semi-final place.

Advised by best friend cricketer Brian Lara to stay at Villa. Manchester United first register their interest and manager John Gregory puts £16m price tag on his head.

Yesterday: Villa accept £12m offer from United.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 21 August 1998

Shahid keeps Surrey on the road to title

BY JON CULLEY
at Trent Bridge

Nottinghamshire 213 and 55-4
Surrey 270

HAVING DISMISSED Nottinghamshire relatively cheaply on the opening day Surrey failed to adhere to their intended script here yesterday, establishing a first-innings lead but one rather less commanding than had once looked on the cards.

Mark Butcher and Ben Hollis, who had rebuilt Surrey's position after the loss of two early wickets on Wednesday evening, maintained the careful approach yesterday morning and their vigilance appeared to have paid off when the home attack failed to break through in the first hour.

But on an unpredictable pitch, where Nottinghamshire had stumbled to 65 for 5 the previous morning, batting was still less than straightforward. The combination of movement through the air and the surface was always liable to take a batsman by surprise, no matter how watchful he cared to be.

Hollis, revealing a side of his game he shows infrequently, had been admirably patient, but in time was bowled out on an inside edge as Andy Oram swung one in. He and Butcher had added 93 for the third wicket, but their partnership foundered just when it seemed likely to lead Surrey to prosperity.

Butcher, whose half-century had occupied 128 balls, reached 77 from a further 49, hitting 10

boundaries before Kevin Evans bowled him, and when Evans added the wicket of James Knott with the last ball before lunch, Surrey were wobbling a little at 160 for 5.

It took a bold partnership between Nadeem Shahid and Jonathan Batley to set them back on course. Shahid's 64 included 10 boundaries and, by putting on 85 for the sixth wicket in rapid time, encouraged their captain to believe the target of full batting points was still viable.

However, the persevering Chris Tolley then had Shahid caught behind by Chris Read, claiming the first of four catches, and when Paul Strang's accurate throw ran out Batley, the home side were encouraged to put in a little extra, which Surrey's rivals will appreciate.

On a day in which Paul Franks, Nottinghamshire's England Under-19 bowler, suffered for his inexperience, Oram finished with 4 for 37 from 21 overs as the new ball saw off the last four Surrey wickets for 14 runs.

Oram also possesses the quality of good manners. Curious to experience the view from Trent Bridge's splendid new press box, he announced himself with a knock on the door and a request for permission to enter, courtesies not all of his fellow young professionals would think to observe.

Two batting points was a disappointing return for Surrey but they should still win this match, which would make it difficult for them to be caught. Having lost Jason Gallian and Usman Afzaal in successive balls as Martin Bicknell produced two excellent deliveries, Nottinghamshire had it all to do to set a challenging target.

No stopping Lara as he notches 158

THE WARWICKSHIRE captain, Brian Lara, showed his true colours at Northampton, taking the home attack apart for a fine second-day century before Jason Brown had him caught behind by David Ripley for 158, one of three victims for Brown.

Yorkshire's tail-enders pulled them out of the mire on the opening day at Cardiff after they were rocked by six pre-lunch blows by champions Glamorgan.

At one stage Yorkshire stumbled to 88 for 6, before Gavin Hamilton led a rearguard action with 79 before he was caught by Tony Cottrell off Dean Cosker.

Essex, the bottom-placed team, lost five quick wickets on the second day at Colchester as they set about attacking Gloucestershire's massive score of 564, led by Matt Windows' 151.

Tim Hancock grabbed three wickets and Jon Lewis two.



England's captain, Alec Stewart, falls over while attempting a sweep during his side's defeat against Sri Lanka yesterday. David Ashdown

Ignoring the order led to collapse

BY RECENT England standards, this was not a particularly impressive collapse. They went from 191 for 2 in the 39th over to 256 for 8 by the end. Yet it was another disintegration which cost England an almost impregnable position and is something that the powers-that-be in the dressing room seem to regard as a phenomenon which will simply go away - at least they appear to do nothing about it.

It has happened in Test matches. It was bad in the last Test of the tour in Antigua, it was horrible in the Second Test this summer at Lord's against South Africa. It was another collectible item in the first innings of the Old Trafford Test and has been on view in all three of the

one-day internationals in the Emirates Triangular.

The selectors appear to regard this ability to dissolve - which England have developed almost to an art form - as something which does not need to be taken seriously.

The lower middle order batting has not been strengthened. Mike Atherton came into the side for the final in place of Adam Holoake, which still meant that the serious batting ended at No 6, Robert Croft's batting, like his bowling, has not progressed and he is not good enough to come in at the fall of the fifth wicket.

If the selectors do not feel there are batsmen of sufficient quality to bring in at seven - although I believe they should

have taken a chance with Ben Hollis, who most certainly is - they must look for players who are able to understand the requirements down the order and at least to play sensible cricket.

They have made the decision to go for specialists rather than

bit-part all rounders which is fine as long as the specialists live up to their reputations. But just in case they do not, and they have made a habit of this in recent months, they really do need some sort of insurance policy.

Alec Stewart, one has been led to believe, tells all his players what he expects from them. Somehow this does not seem to ring true when it comes to the batting.

In this one-day competition the lower middle order have seldom indicated they are playing to a specific plan.

England were now given a superb start by Nick Knight and Atherton and the former captain began almost as if he had been selected as a pinch-hitter. This was another sure indication of how freedom from the responsibility of the captaincy has loosened his approach. He batted in this innings as if he was really enjoying it when normally he tends to make it look as if batting is a form of penance decreed by the Italian poet Dante.

It was the admirably Sri Lankan spinners who hauled England back. Of course Muttiah Muralitharan took pride of place with five wickets, but the others admirably exploited the weakness of contemporary batsmen against spin. But there was something depressingly fragile and inevitable about the way England's later batsmen surrendered the initiative and it has been going on for too long.

Caddick capitalises on batsmen's folly

BY JOHN COLLIS
at Taunton

Derbyshire 290 and 139
Somerset 181 and 93-5

IF LEMMINGS played cricket, they would be like this. On a decent wicket, admittedly in the face of some spirited seam bowling, the batsmen of both sides had played like holiday-makers on the beach. If you manage to stay in for a while, you must then do something

very silly. Derbyshire may have half a mind already on their NatWest final against Lancashire, but they cannot be kidding themselves that this is practice for the stern, lengthy discipline of 60-over cricket - yesterday they lasted one ball beyond 34 overs.

But no-one present at Taunton will forget this game in a hurry. So far, and there is plenty of time left for more cheap thrills, it has been a case of batsmen behaving badly. In response to this, the Somerset attack would rightly suggest that they deserve some praise for bowling the home side back into the match, leaving it nicely poised. But the day's first act belonged to the opposition.

Somerset, precarious at 96 for 5 on Wednesday night in answer to Derby's bludgeoning 290, developed a series of little stands that led nowhere. Kevin Dean's six wickets were just reward for sustained left-arm accuracy.

At lunch, Derby were 45 without either loss or discomfort. In the hour after the interval they contrived to lose six wickets for 48. Four of these fell to the swing bowling of Matthew Muckley, also left arm, and Somerset's find of the year, before Andy Caddick took over. As he so often has this season Caddick looked a class above everyone else, hustling 5 for 49.

The batting of another promising youngster, Ben Spence, symbolised the day.

He sped to 27 with successive cuts off Caddick, one clipped, one squirmed. Next ball he looped back the timest of catches to the bowler. Twenty balls too short even to be considered a cameo, but it is that sort of game.

In poor light Somerset set off after 249 to win, but with the exception of Marcus Trescothick could show no greater adhesion second time round, and 20 wickets had fallen on a very strange day.

Tufnell's solitary reward was the wicket of Ben Smith, adjudged lbw sweeping. By then he had started to straighten more than the odd ball, which might have had a bearing on the matter. Phil Simmons failed to score and Leicestershire must be concerned that he has now made only 120 runs in 14 Championship innings. Sutcliffe, though, went on sublimely, reaching three figures from 135 balls with 14 fours and a six before being caught behind.

Sutcliffe makes sublime progress

BY MIKE CAREY
at Grace Road

Leicestershire 377 for 5
Middlesex 307

IAN SUTCLIFFE has had to bat in the shadow of others for much of this season, but he came into his own here yesterday with a superb innings of 167, the highest Championship score of his career and a piece of batting which was indeed worthy of his illustrious name.

He made the most of the opportunities offered by a mild pitch and a Middlesex attack that was, to put it politely, none too demanding until Philip Tufnell, with a thoughtful spell that started before lunch and extended beyond tea, introduced some much needed control.

By all accounts Leicestershire, not least their quicker bowlers, are somewhat miffed at not being provided with a pitch with more pace and bounce than this one; for all

that, had they held their chances, particularly off Paul Weekes, who was missed three times in compiling 139, they might have dismissed Middlesex for around 200.

Theoretically it ought to have been a better day for bowling yesterday, cooler and with cloud cover. Whether the new ball would have swung or not we shall never know, for Middlesex pitched it so short that Sutcliffe and Vince Wells careered along at around six an over early on.

With the ball flying to all parts of a mixture of cuts, pulls and hooks, Tufnell was pressed into service as early as the 14th over, and, fortunately, immediately found his rhythm. It was also good to see Richard Johnson produce the odd delivery reminiscent of the bowler who burst on to the scene six years ago, but otherwise Wells and Sutcliffe did much as they liked in a partnership of 156 in 35 overs, until Wells was caught by Mark Ramprakash at mid-on.

Tufnell's solitary reward was the wicket of Ben Smith, adjudged lbw sweeping. By then he had started to straighten more than the odd ball, which might have had a bearing on the matter. Phil Simmons failed to score and Leicestershire must be concerned that he has now made only 120 runs in 14 Championship innings. Sutcliffe, though, went on sublimely, reaching three figures from 135 balls with 14 fours and a six before being caught behind.

Britannic Assurance Championship

Gloucestershire v Yorkshire

Gloucestershire (4 ps) are trailing Yorkshire (5 ps) by 249 runs with 5 first-innings wickets in hand

Gloucestershire - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Yorkshire - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Gloucestershire - Second innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Yorkshire - Second innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Essex v Gloucestershire

Essex (4 ps) are trailing Gloucestershire (5 ps) by 432 runs with 3 first-innings wickets in hand

Essex - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Gloucestershire - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Essex - Second innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Gloucestershire - Second innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Kent v Gloucestershire

Kent (4 ps) are trailing Gloucestershire (5 ps) by 293-5 (Westies 139, Ramprakash 110)

Kent - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Gloucestershire - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Kent - Second innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Gloucestershire - Second innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Leicestershire v Middlesex

Leicestershire (4 ps) are trailing Middlesex (5 ps) by 293-5 (Westies 139, Ramprakash 110)

Leicestershire - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Middlesex - First innings

	Runs	As	Bt	Mt
D J Rhodes	0	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
D S Llewellyn	0	0	0	0
A McGrath	0	0	0	0
R J Bailey	0	0	0	0
G O Cough	0	0	0	0
M J Hoggard	0	0	0	0
W L Lunn	0	0	0	0
Total (15.5 overs)	0	0	0	0

Leicestershire - Second innings

Runs As As Bts Mth				
Imprakesh b Johnson.....	67	0	10	117
Imprakesh b Hewitt.....	1	0	0	10
Imprakesh b Hewitt.....	167	124	228	253
b Fulford.....	9	2	11	6
b Johnson.....	0	0	0	4
b Johnson.....	46	0	5112	138

Dettori finds a new song in Lochangel

BY GREG WOOD
at York

WHEN THE management at York next decide to name a bar or grandstand after a significant figure in the course's history, they could do far worse than unveil a plaque to Pecticks Well. Here is not, admittedly, a name which many of yesterday's racegoers would recognise, but the racegoers who have enjoyed and profited from the exploits of Lochangel and Lochangel are deeply indebted to her.

Though thoroughly modest on the racecourse, Pecticks Well has passed on a rich vein of talent to her offspring, Lochangel, of course, was a particular favourite at York, winning the Nunthorpe Stakes five years ago. Few would have dared hope that her half-sister, Lochangel, might ever be her equal, but with her victory in the same race yesterday, Lochangel laid claim to a similar place in public affection.

Better still, she is owned, trained and ridden by the same people, the most important of all from the punters' point of view being Frankie Dettori.

If asked to nominate a jockey to ride their horse in a vital race, a majority might prefer the uncompromising approach of Kieren Fallon, who has displaced Dettori as the champion jockey for the foreseeable future. When it comes to enjoying a moment of emotional triumph, however, it often feels as if no-one but Dettori will do.

For all that he seems forever destined to trail Fallon numerically, meanwhile, Dettori is an immensely polished rider. As Sainte Marine skipped past the two-

furlong pole in yesterday's race, with most of her pursuers struggling vainly to narrow the gap, a French victory seemed highly likely.

Dettori, though, had managed to contain Lochangel's own tear-away tendency, and owe she quickened out of the pack. When the challenge came, Sainte Marine had nothing left with which to repel it.

The former champion, who rode Lochangel as one of his Magnificent Seven at Ascot in September 1996, felt it was going to be his day on the way to post.

He said afterwards: "The way she came down, I thought, 'This is good'."

Lochangel's achievements may now be starting to equal those of her half-sister, but there are differences between them too. "They're both super movers with devastating speed," Ian Balding, her trainer said. "But Lochangel is an awful lot easier to train. She has a wonderfully even temperament, a child could ride her, whereas Lochangel was always much more difficult."

"I adored Lochangel but she was half crazy and was not easy to train."

Balding, who also saddled the third-placed 50-1 chance Dashing Blue, believes soft ground will not blunt Lochangel's speed appreciably, which makes the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp, another race which also featured on Lochangel's cv, an ideal target. And who knows, she might yet return to the Knivesmire next year and win another Nunthorpe - something which even Lochangel could not manage.

The post-race celebrations in the grandstand were prolonged, Dettori-ridden 6-1 winners being

something of a rarity in the big races.

In another sense, too, the race was fairly unique among Group One events in that not one of the 17 runners was prepared by the Godolphin operation. Since they have already collected almost twice as much as any other trainer in the country, however, they could afford to let this one go, and there had been a reminder a little earlier, too, of how dramatically the men from Dubai have altered the old assumptions of British racing.

Had Mick Channon sent out the winner of the Lowther Stakes 10 years ago, he would have retired to his Lambourn yard to plot a path with Newmarket, and the 1,000 Guineas next spring, at its end.

Now, though, he realises that his association with Birt Alalay, who sprinted away with a strong renewal of the Lowther, is most unlikely to extend beyond the autumn, since the filly who is owned by Sheikh Ahmed, will surely join the exodus to Dubai as soon as the nights start to draw in.

"You can't worry about things like that," Channon said afterwards, while also insisting that "she will stay a mile standing on her head." The best price you will find for the Guineas is 10-1 (from 16-1) with Hills, and skinty though it is, Birt Alalay's burst of acceleration was certainly that of an outstanding prospect.

While she may not win any Classic for Channon personally, meanwhile, her victory, along with that of Jose Algarboud in the same colours in Wednesday's Gimcrack, will have secured his place in the Maktoum family's training retinue. And that is certainly a prize worth having.



Lochangel and Frankie Dettori sprint race of the French filly Sainte Marine for a brilliant Nunthorpe Stakes win yesterday. *Racing Post*

Stravinsky is Guineas favourite

THOSE WHO scoffed 12 months ago when King Of Kings was made race favourite for the 2,000 Guineas after just a maiden-race win were yesterday given another once-raced Aidan O'Brien-trained two-year-old to mull over for the Newmarket classic.

Stravinsky was sent off 11-8 on favourite for the Moorstyle Convivial Maiden Stakes at York and had his 2,000 Guineas odds slashed to 5-1 after he overcame trouble in running to

finish well on top and beat Munjiz by two lengths. Michael Kinane's mount was travelling strongly on the rails throughout the six-furlong contest but saw no daylight until pace-setter Centurion hung left towards the centre of the track in the final furlong. Once the gap arrived, there was never any doubt about Stravinsky's superiority.

"He's explosive, isn't he?" he said O'Brien afterwards. "He has that extra gear and he's so

well-made. He's in all the big races including the Champagne [at Doncaster] but we'll have a think about his next race."

The son of Nurcyev is owned by Michael Tabor whose colours were carried to victory in the 2,000 Guineas in 1997 by Entrepreneur and who was also part-owner of King Of Kings. Stravinsky is now a 5-1 chance with Ladbrokes and William Hill to follow in their footsteps on the Rowley Mile.

Coral are scarcely any more generous, offering 6-1.

When told that Stravinsky was 5-1 for the 2000 Guineas, O'Brien grinned: "That's a good price isn't it?"

Irish bookmaker Sean Graham, who cut Stravinsky to 6-1 from 14-1 for the Guineas, revealed that the colt had already been backed with him at 20-1 and added: "I was really impressed with Stravinsky and it will take something special to beat him."

RESULTS

YORK

2.05: (30th/35th) Nunthorpe Handicap
1. HONEYBOWL (10) (Dettori 7-1)
2. Jaxxon (10) (Dettori 8-1)
3. Penelope (10) (Dettori 10-1)
4. 1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th/6th/7th/8th/9th/10th/11th/12th/13th/14th/15th/16th/17th/18th/19th/20th/21st/22nd/23rd/24th/25th/26th/27th/28th/29th/30th/31st/32nd/33rd/34th/35th/36th/37th/38th/39th/40th/41st/42nd/43rd/44th/45th/46th/47th/48th/49th/50th/51st/52nd/53rd/54th/55th/56th/57th/58th/59th/60th/61st/62nd/63rd/64th/65th/66th/67th/68th/69th/70th/71st/72nd/73rd/74th/75th/76th/77th/78th/79th/80th/81st/82nd/83rd/84th/85th/86th/87th/88th/89th/90th/91st/92nd/93rd/94th/95th/96th/97th/98th/99th/100th/101st/102nd/103rd/104th/105th/106th/107th/108th/109th/110th/111th/112th/113th/114th/115th/116th/117th/118th/119th/120th/121st/122nd/123rd/124th/125th/126th/127th/128th/129th/130th/131st/132nd/133rd/134th/135th/136th/137th/138th/139th/140th/141st/142nd/143rd/144th/145th/146th/147th/148th/149th/150th/151st/152nd/153rd/154th/155th/156th/157th/158th/159th/160th/161st/162nd/163rd/164th/165th/166th/167th/168th/169th/170th/171st/172nd/173rd/174th/175th/176th/177th/178th/179th/180th/181st/182nd/183rd/184th/185th/186th/187th/188th/189th/190th/191st/192nd/193rd/194th/195th/196th/197th/198th/199th/200th/201st/202nd/203rd/204th/205th/206th/207th/208th/209th/210th/211st/212nd/213th/214th/215th/216th/217th/218th/219th/220th/221st/222nd/223rd/224th/225th/226th/227th/228th/229th/230th/231st/232nd/233rd/234th/235th/236th/237th/238th/239th/240th/241st/242nd/243rd/244th/245th/246th/247th/248th/249th/250th/251st/252nd/253rd/254th/255th/256th/257th/258th/259th/260th/261st/262nd/263rd/264th/265th/266th/267th/268th/269th/270th/271st/272nd/273rd/274th/275th/276th/277th/278th/279th/280th/281st/282nd/283rd/284th/285th/286th/287th/288th/289th/290th/291st/292nd/293rd/294th/295th/296th/297th/298th/299th/300th/301st/302nd/303rd/304th/305th/306th/307th/308th/309th/310th/311st/312nd/313th/314th/315th/316th/317th/318th/319th/320th/321st/322nd/323rd/324th/325th/326th/327th/328th/329th/330th/331st/332nd/333rd/334th/335th/336th/337th/338th/339th/340th/341st/342nd/343rd/344th/345th/346th/347th/348th/349th/350th/351st/352nd/353rd/354th/355th/356th/357th/358th/359th/360th/361st/362nd/363rd/364th/365th/366th/367th/368th/369th/370th/371st/372nd/373rd/374th/375th/376th/377th/378th/379th/380th/381st/382nd/383rd/384th/385th/386th/387th/388th/389th/390th/391st/392nd/393rd/394th/395th/396th/397th/398th/399th/400th/401st/402nd/403rd/404th/405th/406th/407th/408th/409th/410th/411st/412nd/413th/414th/415th/416th/417th/418th/419th/420th/421st/422nd/423rd/424th/425th/426th/427th/428th/429th/430th/431st/432nd/433rd/434th/435th/436th/437th/438th/439th/440th/441st/442nd/443rd/444th/445th/446th/447th/448th/449th/450th/451st/452nd/453rd/454th/455th/456th/457th/458th/459th/460th/461st/462nd/463rd/464th/465th/466th/467th/468th/469th/470th/471st/472nd/473rd/474th/475th/476th/477th/478th/479th/480th/481st/482nd/483rd/484th/485th/486th/487th/488th/489th/490th/491st/492nd/493rd/494th/495th/496th/497th/498th/499th/500th/501st/502nd/503rd/504th/505th/506th/507th/508th/509th/510th/511st/512nd/513th/514th/515th/516th/517th/518th/519th/520th/521st/522nd/523rd/524th/525th/526th/527th/528th/529th/530th/531st/532nd/533rd/534th/535th/536th/537th/538th/539th/540th/541st/542nd/543rd/544th/545th/546th/547th/548th/549th/550th/551st/552nd/553rd/554th/555th/556th/557th/558th/559th/560th/561st/562nd/563rd/564th/565th/566th/567th/568th/569th/570th/571st/572nd/573rd/574th/575th/576th/577th/578th/579th/580th/581st/582nd/583rd/584th/585th/586th/587th/588th/589th/590th/591st/592nd/593rd/594th/595th/596th/597th/598th/599th/600th/601st/602nd/603rd/604th/605th/606th/607th/608th/609th/610th/611st/612nd/613th/614th/615th/616th/617th/618th/619th/620th/621st/622nd/623rd/624th/625th/626th/627th/628th/629th/630th/631st/632nd/633rd/634th/635th/636th/637th/638th/639th/640th/641st/642nd/643rd/644th/645th/646th/647th/648th/649th/650th/651st/652nd/653rd/654th/655th/656th/657th/658th/659th/660th/661st/662nd/663rd/664th/665th/666th/667th/668th/669th/670th/671st/672nd/673rd/674th/675th/676th/677th/678th/679th/680th/681st/682nd/683rd/684th/685th/686th/687th/688th/689th/690th/691st/692nd/693rd/694th/695th/696th/697th/698th/699th/700th/701st/702nd/703rd/704th/705th/706th/707th/708th/709th/710th/711st/712nd/713th/714th/715th/716th/717th/718th/719th/720th/721st/722nd/723rd/724th/725th/726th/727th/728th/729th/730th/731st/732nd/733rd/734th/735th/736th/737th/738th/739th/740th/741st/742nd/743rd/744th/745th/746th/747th/748th/749th/750th/751st/752nd/753rd/754th/755th/756th/757th/758th/759th/760th/761st/762nd/763rd/764th/765th/766th/767th/768th/769th/770th/771st/772nd/773rd/774th/775th/776th/777th/778th/779th/780th/781st/782nd/783rd/784th/785th/786th/787th/788th/789th/790th/791st/792nd/793rd/794th/795th/796th/797th/798th/799th/800th/801st/802nd/803rd/804th/805th/806th/807th/808th/809th/810th/811st/812nd/813th/814th/815th/816th/817th/818th/819th/820th/821st/822nd/823rd/824th/825th/826th/827th/828th/829th/830th/831st/832nd/833rd/834th/835th/836th/837th/838th/839th/840th/841st/842nd/843rd/844th/845th/846th/847th/848th/849th/850th/851st/85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European Athletics Championships: Sprint champion ready to take the test against Boldon, Greene and Fredericks



Suspended in space as the runners soar over a hurdle in yesterday's second semi-final of the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase

Jerry Lampen/Reuters

Campbell faces up to new challenges

By MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Budapest

AS THE newly-established European 100 metres champion, Darren Campbell, strode from the arena on Wednesday night, it was suggested to him that he must have exceeded his wildest dreams. "No," he replied pleasantly. "I knew I was going to win it."

By yesterday morning, the 25-year-old was already looking ahead to the challenges lying in front of him – improving on his winning time of 10.04sec, and preparing to meet the likes of Ato Boldon, the world champion Maurice Greene and his sometime training partner, Frankie Fredericks.

But the sense of satisfaction was palpable. The man whom Linford Christie had marked out as his successor six years ago had finally lived up to the high expectation, even if the journey had taken him longer than he could have imagined when he first began to attract attention as the European junior champion and world junior silver medalist. Fittingly, it was Christie who presented him with his gold at yesterday's ceremony.

However, even during the year when Campbell stepped away from the sport to pursue a footballing career with Weymouth and Plymouth Argyle, there were still influential voices calling him back.

Christie, for one, who paid for him to receive treatment in Germany for a back injury and then invited him

to train with his group in Florida for the winter of 1995-96. And his mother, Marva, who has encouraged him to be a sprinter since seeing him run as a five-year-old at his school sports.

"It was something about the way I ran," Campbell recalled yesterday. "Every time I played another sport, she kept saying 'Why don't you go back to athletics? That's what you

should be doing.' I phoned her last night, and she was very happy. She said 'I told you you should stick with athletics, didn't I?' Mother knew best after all."

As he reflected upon his new status, Campbell's thoughts turned to the years he had spent as a schoolboy on Moss Side, the Manchester district notorious for its high number of drug-related murders.

"I knew a lot of people who were involved in lots of things," he said. "A lot of them died along the way. You never knew how the violence was going to affect you. A lot of the guys there didn't have any way out, but I was lucky because I had athletics to turn to. I knew some people who were a lot quicker than me, but they didn't have either the perseverance or the support." Campbell believes

now, however, that he had to come to terms with some of the support he received before being able to establish himself.

"Six years ago, when Linford touted me to be his successor, I think I took it on board too much," he said. "I believed all the hype, and I think I felt I didn't need to put in all the work because it was my divine right. I think that's why it took me so long

to come through. But now I know there are a lot of hungry guys out there, and if you don't do the work, you won't get anywhere."

The dedication may be there, under the coaching influence of Christie, but the intensity which his mentor used to exude on the blocks is entirely absent. Before his races, Campbell often smiles. "I tried to run with aggression in the

way Linford did and people like Dwain Chambers do now," Campbell said. "But I realised it wasn't working for me. I'm not like that. If I relax, I run better."

Christie, here working in the BBC TV commentary box, said he had found it difficult to concentrate on covering the 100 metres final. "I was dying to go out and see Darren," he said. "I got down to the track in about 9.9sec. What he did made me proud."

But both Campbell and Christie made it clear that this success is only a step along the way. After the race, Christie rang his own former coach and mentor, Ron Rodden, who identified three mistakes Campbell had made in his start, his pick-up and his finishing, where he raised his arm in triumph before the line.

"You've got to find a fault," Christie said. "Because if your perfect race gets you 10.04, where do you go from there?" From here, Campbell goes to next Tuesday's Lausanne grand prix, still, by his own acknowledgement, with things to learn.

One imminent lesson should not prove too painful an experience, however. Before these Championships, Christie promised to give Campbell his £3,000 Italian sports scooter – a Gilera Runner with the advertising slogan: The dawn of a new era – if he ran a personal best. Campbell has earned his prize; now he must undergo a one-day driving course before he can gain his licence.

Erratic Wariso scrapes through

SOLOMON WARISO, who had flirted with disaster in the first qualifying round of the 400 metres, yesterday earned a place in today's European Championship final alongside Britain's two top-ranking exponents, Iwan Thomas and Mark Richardson, writes Mike Rowbottom.

Wariso took the fourth qualifying place in his semi-final in a time of 45.59, but the manner of his running was still far from reassuring following his misjudgement in the opening race, when he had looked round and slowed over the final 50 metres and missed the third automatic qualifying place to a fast-finishing opponent.

Yesterday he also disrupted his rhythm in the home straight by twisting round to survey the field, although on this occasion he secured the place he needed.

It has been an erratic competition

so far for the man who was chosen for an individual place ahead of Roger Black, who is now observing the action from the high viewpoint of the BBC TV commentary point, having retired earlier this month.

But now he is in the final, where there is not going to be any point in taking measures apparently intended to conserve energy. And his times are moving in the right direction.

In contrast to their 31-year-old colleague, Thomas and Richardson have progressed through two rounds with the minimum of anxiety.

Thomas, who has won only once in his six meetings with the A&A trials, looked in impressive shape as he won his semi-final in 44.83sec, three places ahead of Wariso.

"Solomon is a bit of a wild card,"

he said. "So I went out hard over the first 300 metres and then waited to see what happened."

"I think the tide is between Mark and myself. The proof's in the pudding now – it's too late for talking. At the end of the day it will be about who has the most strength left in their legs after the rounds. We'll find out tomorrow, and may the best man win."

"I won't be avoiding Mark before the final, but I won't be going over to him for a friendly chat. We both want to win." Richardson took second place in his semi-final behind Thomas Czubak of Poland, who celebrated a national record of 45.22sec, with the Briton recording 45.51.

"I just wanted to be in the first two," Richardson said, adding that it was important to maintain concentration even when races were being run relatively slowly. The

main challenge to Britain retaining a title they have held since 1986 is likely to come from the Poles, who saw Robert Mackowiak lower Czubak's record to 45.08sec behind Thomas in the second semi-final.

Allison Curbishley qualified easily for today's women's 400 metres final as she took second place in a time of 51.43sec behind Grit Breuer of Germany, who won the semi-final in 50.79. She will be joined there by Britain's other representative, Donna Fraser, who took fourth place in the other semi-final won by Helena Fuchsova of the Czech Republic in 50.87. Fraser recorded 52.05sec.

Julian Golding made a promising start in the 200 metres, winning his first-round heat easing down in a time of 20.39sec, which was just 0.01 outside his personal best.

Katharine Merry, one of Linford Christie's training group alongside

Jamie Baulch, Paul Gray and the newly-installed European champion Darren Campbell, maintained the mood of celebration in the camp with an assured performance in her opening heat of the 200 metres.

Merry kept her form over the final 50 metres to move through from fourth to second place behind Ukraine's world champion, Zhanna Piatusevich, who recorded 23.02. Merry, clearly satisfied with her run, was timed at 23.23.

However, the pace proved too much for Sarah Wilhelmy, the 18-year-old world junior bronze medalist now coached by Bruce Longden, who previously guided the career of another Essex girl, Sally Gunnell.

Wilhelmy, who finished the indoor season top of the world rankings with 23.54sec, faded over the last 40 metres after she had entered the final straight in one of the four first places.

RESULTS FROM THE EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN

100M

FINAL
1 Darren Campbell (GB) 10.04
2 Dwain Chambers (GB) 10.10
3 Charalambos Papadimitriou (Gr) 10.17
4 Ato Boldon (Trn) 10.20
5 Maurice Greene (USA) 10.24
6 Ato Boldon (Trn) 10.25
7 Maurice Greene (USA) 10.29
8 Maurice Greene (USA) 10.30

3,000M

STEEPLECHASE

FINAL
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2 Dwain Chambers (GB) 10.10
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DEATHLON

100m hurdles: Maurice Greene (USA) 13.96, 2 L. Lobodin (Rus) 13.97, 3 I.

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Last week, one ticket scooped the £2 million jackpot.

Just ask for a £1 ticket for this week's guaranteed £2 million jackpot game at your nearest National Lottery machine.

JP 11/10/150

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoa
Ball. 9.00 Mark Goodie: 11.30
Radio 1 Roadshow: Simon Mayo
presents the show from Torquay,
with performances from 911 and
the Beautiful South. 12.30 News-
beat. 12.45 Jo Whalley. 2.00
M.A. Radcliffe: New music gub-
bins from Mark and Lard, the
Cheesily Cheerful Chart Challenge
and Harry White's Passion Wagon.
4.00 Pearla. 5.45 News-
beat. 6.00 The Essential
Selection: With the soundtrack to
the weekend. 8.30 Dance Party.
10.30 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap
Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverid-
er. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Jimmy Young: Talking to the peo-
ple who make the news. Phone
the comment line on 0500 288291.
Lines open from 11.30am to 11.5pm.
2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn:
Including the Mystery Voice com-
petition. 7.00 Glamorous Nights:
the Ivor Novello Story. 7.30 Friday
Night Music: Introduced by
Richard Baker from the Hippo-
drome, Golders Green, London.
9.45 Saturday Night and Sunday
Morning. 9.50 Listen to the Band.
10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30
Sheridan Morley. 12.05 Charles
Nove. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week.
11.00 Edinburgh International
Festival 98.
11.50 Sir Donald Tovey.
12.30 Concert, part 2.
1.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Rachmaninov.
2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R) See Pick
of the Day.
4.00 Voices and Viola.
4.15 Music Machine. (R)
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 BBC Proms 98. Tonight,
a programme of music with a po-
litical message: Tchaikovsky's tri-
umphalism, Szymanowski's
celebration of peace, and
Shostakovich's thinly veiled attack
on Stalinism. Sergei Aleksashkin

PICK OF THE DAY

THE BILLING for The Orchestra
(2.15pm R4) describes it as "Jen
Anouilh's comic masterpiece".
However, if you can stand Felix
Cross's twiddly-widdly music, this
portrait of conflict behind the
harmony in a small provincial
orchestra makes an intriguingly
uneasy comedy. Compare and
contrast Shostakovich's music at
different periods in two Proms.
The revolutionary Symphony

No 3 of 1929, subtitled "The First
of May", features in a repeat of
last Wednesday's Prom (2pm
R3). The main work in tonight's
Prom (7.30pm R3) is the grim
Symphony No 13, *Babi Yar*,
written more than 30 years later
and drawing upon poems about a
German massacre of Russian
Jews. Vasily Sinaisky conducts
the BBC Philharmonic.
ROBERT HANKS



(bass), Howard Shelley (piano),
Leeds Festival Chorus, Huddersfield
Choral Society, BBC
Philharmonic/Vasily Sinaisky.
Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture. Szy-
manowski: Symphony No 4 (Sinfonia
concertante). See Pick of the Day.
8.20 Poet as Witness. Prof Robin
Milner-Gulland and composer Ger-
ard McBurney discuss the signifi-
cance of the collaboration
between Shostakovich and the
young Yevgeny Yevtushenko.
8.40 Concert, part 2.
Shostakovich: Symphony No 13
(Babi Yar).
9.45 Postscript. Five poets read
a newly commissioned verse letter
to a poet from the past they ad-
mire. In the last of the series,
American poet Mark Doty reads
his Letter to Walt Whitman. (R)
10.00 Stockhausen at 70. To ce-
lebrate the seventieth birthday to-
morrow of Karlheinz Stockhausen,
Mark Russell assesses the work
and career of this most influen-
tial and provocative 20th-century
composer. With contributions from
Pierre Boulez, Rolf Gehlhaar,
Jonathan Harvey, Suzanne
Stephens and Stockhausen him-
self. Music includes 'Kontakte'
(1958-60), an early masterpiece,
performed by members of Psapha
- Richard Casey (piano) and
Tim Williams (percussion) - with
electronics by Stuart Innes.
11.30 Take Me Back to New Or-
leans.
12.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Berlioz. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.0MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Desert Island Discs.
9.45 The Calendar.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Strictly Dancehall.
11.30 Like They've Never Been
Gone.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 The Write Stuff.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Orche-
stra. See Pick of the Day.
3.00 NEWS: Check Up.
3.30 Sleuths. (R)
3.45 Feedback.
4.00 NEWS: Open Book.
4.30 The Message.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 RTPP.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. John Wilson pre-
sents the night's arts show.
7.45 Dear Jayne Brown. 'Corre-
sponding with the Enemy' by Eliza-
beth Proud. With Jill Balcon,
Stella Gonet and Julie Cox (5/5).
8.00 NEWS: Diverse Perspectives.
The second of two pro-
grammes in which Yvonne
Alibhai-Brown invites her audience
and guests to look at contem-
porary issues from the perspective
of different cultures in Britain to-
day. 'The Perfect Match'. Men ad-
vertising for a wife on an
Asian-British radio station often
seem to be seeking a specific
type of woman. What attributes

do different cultures in Britain look
for in a partner?
8.45 Letter from America. Alistair
Cooke with another slice of Ameri-
cana.
9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: The
Dish. By Paul Hillman. Bette
Bourne stars as China Dish, the
role he played on stage to great
critical acclaim. The intimate radio
version provides an equally funny
and chilling insight into the dying
days of a Birmingham bed and
breakfast that has seen both joy
and Aids. Harris.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime. Like Wa-
ter for Chocolate. By Laura Es-
quivel, abridged by Pat
McLoughlin, read by Mia Soteriou
(5/10). (R)
11.00 Late Tackle. More late-night
conversation from the world of
sport.
11.30 The Syndicate.
12.00 News.
12.30 Late Book: Mood Indigo.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 Leisure Report.
5.56 - 6.00 Weather.
RADIO 4 LW
(98kHz)
(98kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines.
Shipping. 5.54 - 6.30 Shipping.
RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

ONE OF the crucial games in the
British Championship was
Jonathan Speelman's loss with
White against Nigel Short. Speel-
man played one of his favourite
innocuous opening systems with
N3, g3, Bg2 and d4, later played
what looked like a temporary pawn
sacrifice with e4 but somehow con-
trived to regain the pawn. Short
made the whole strategy
look very poor, but having now
seen some earlier games from the
event, I begin to understand what
Speelman was up to. In the fol-
lowing game, he scored a fine vic-
tory by following through a very
similar idea.

On this occasion after 9.Ng5
there was never any risk of White
not regaining his pawn, and when
he did so, he had a nice advantage
in central space. 15.d5 was a the-
matic breakthrough, when
15...exd5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Qxd5
would leave both the bishop on h5
and pawn on a7 under attack. As a
result, White gained powerful pres-
sure and the option of either push-
ing his passed d-pawn with d6 or
weakening Black's Q-side pawns
with dxc6.

The sacrifice with 28.f5 must
have been an easy decision to take.
With Black's bishop incarcerated on
h7 and White obtaining a passed
pawn on d7 protected by the knight
on c5, the only question was how
long Black could survive. 34...Ra8
was a sorry move to have to make
to meet the threat of Re8 but Black
was soon put out of his misery.

White: Jonathan Speelman

Black: Richard Pert

British Championship 1998

1 Nb5	18 Ract Qa5
2 g3 Bg4	20 Nd6 Qc7
3 Bg2 Nd7	21 Qa3 c5
4 d4 c6	22 Nd4 Rf8
5 0-0 e6	23 d4 c4
6 c4 Bb6	24 Qx7 Ne5
7 Qb3 Rb8	25 g4 Bg5
8 e4 dxe4	26 f4 Nd5
9 Ng5 Ng6	27 d6 Qd8
10 Ne3 0-0	28 f5 Nxc1
11 Be3 Be7	29 Rxc1 Bh7
12 h3 Bb5	30 Rxd1 b5
13 Ngx4 Nxe4	31 d7 Rc7
14 Nxe4 h6	32 Nc5 Ra7
15 d5 exd5	33 Re1 Qb8
16 cxd5 Bb6	34 Bc6 Ra8
17 Bf4 Be7	35 Bxa8 Rxa8
18 Bxc7 Qxc7	36 Nb7 resigns

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

THERE WAS a good struggle on
this deal. West found a far-sighted
defence but South's guns were just
too big for him.
East certainly did his best to
muddy the waters when, after two
passes, he opened Three Spades.
In practice, South overcalled with
Five Clubs and was raised to the
small slam by his partner. I doubt
that I would have reached this con-
tract; I am quite sure that I would
have preferred Three No-trumps to
Five Clubs, but then West might
have competed with Four Spades.)
West led the jack of spades
against Six Clubs and, after winning
and drawing trumps, declarer led
D2 from hand. The contract would
have been straightforward on any
3-2 heart break, but there was no
rush to test the suit. Now it was
West's turn to shine. Look what
happens if he automatically plays
low: Dummy's ten forces East's
king and West is left in sole control
of both of the red suits. Then the
other top spade and the rest of the
trumps finish him.

North-South game; dealer West

North		East	
♠ 4 2	♥ A Q 4 3	♠ 10 3	♥ 10 9 7
♦ 10 9 6 2	♣ 10 9 6 2	♦ K 9 8 7 6 5	♣ K 8 5
		♦ 2	♣ A K Q J 8 4

ing squeeze but South found a neat
counter-attack. He won the heart
lead in hand and crossed to ♠ Q,
exposing the not unexpected 4-1
break. Then, placing East with
♦ K, he led ♠ Q from dummy. East
covered and South ruffed. Now
poor West was again left to look
after both the hearts and the dia-
monds and, when declarer played
off all of his black suit winners, he
was forced to surrender. It was an
elegant demonstration of what is
termed "transferring the menace".

PUZZLE

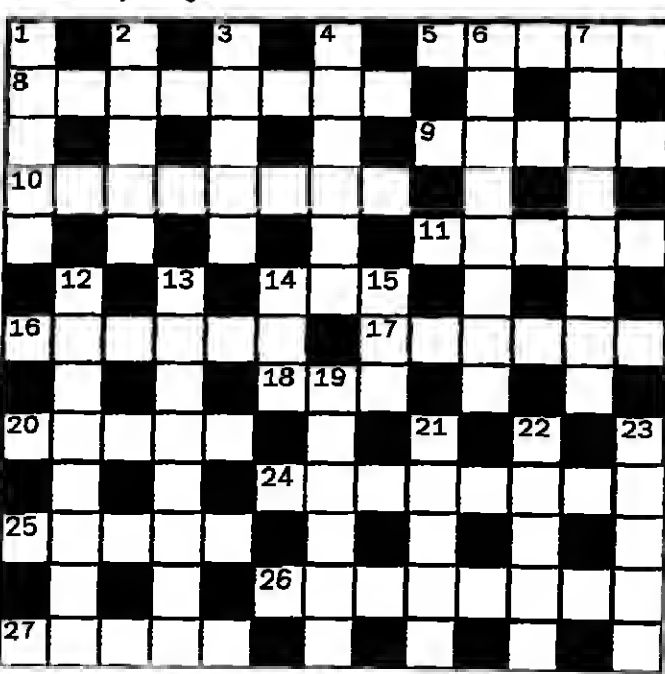
TIME FOR some more "26 L of the
A" (Letters of the Alphabet)
teasers. What are the missing
words in the following:

1 M M I A M P
2 S B P F A N E
3 C H E H D
8 Y A D F B F U T C A N N
8 8 T F L in B
(Answers on Monday)

Yesterday's answer:
You must turn over the circle
evidently, because it might have an
even number on the back and the
two (because it might have a circle
on the back, which would invalidate
the hypothesis). It is not neces-
sary to see what is on the other side
of the seven - whether square or
circle, it makes no difference to
the truth of the statement given.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3695 Friday 21 August



ACROSS
5 Unclouded (5)
8 Pit, in a theatre (8)
9 Swindle (5)
10 Reserved (8)
11 Threescore (5)
14 Cricket extra (3)
16 Palm fibre used in baskets (6)
17 Confederacy (6)
18 Attempt (3)
20 Difficult question (5)
24 Large pachyderm (8)
25 Moorland (5)
26 Furtive (8)
27 Speech supposedly unheard
by other actors (5)

DOWN
1 Surplus to requirements (5)
2 Talk boastfully (5)
3 Clemency (5)
4 After-dinner drink (6)
6 Affectedly superior (3-2-3)
7 Prickly-leaved plant (8)
12 Titled lady (8)
13 Feigned (8)
14 Cricket club? (3)
15 Cathedral city (3)
19 Tell (6)
21 Utter (5)
22 Planet (5)
23 Remains (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Fillers, 2 Offer (Philosophy), 3 Night, 4 Average, 10 Eldersdown, 12 Eve, 13
Candle, 14 Guller, 17 Pts, 18 Bullshit, 20 Bunkies, 21 Ofese, 23 Endow, 24 Ramack, DOWN:
1 Fence, 2 Lure, 3 Tangle, 4 Silliness, 5 Ocean, 6 Flingside, 7 Re-cleat, 11 Dashed, 13
Capable, 15 Unicorn, 16 Clower, 18 Below, 19 Check, 22 En.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

DAVID COPPERFIELD (Opus Sky
Movies Screen 1), the novel by
Charles Dickens about an orphan
who grows up to be a writer, has
been transferred to the screen
many times. George Cukor made
perhaps the most famous version
in 1934, with WC Fields as
Micawber and Basil Rathbone as
Mr Murdstone. John Sullivan, the
creator of *Only Fools and Horses*,
is now adapting the book for the
BBC, with David Jason, Nicholas
Lyndhurst and Pauline Quirke all

being suggested for 1970. This
glossy reading from 1970 boasts a
strong cast with Susan Hampshire,
Richard Attenborough, Laurence
Olivier and Edith Evans.
Adrian Lynne's *Hush Hour* Shoot
to Thrill (10pm Discovery)
concentrates on the work of Marc
Woff, an aerial stunt coordinator.
He's been responsible for some
thrilling sequences in recent
movies, including the jet-fighter
scenes for *Tomorrow Never Dies*.
JAMES RAMPTON



(983063), 4.30 Top Marques (983067),
5.00 First Flights (983068), 5.30 Jura-
can (127029), 6.00 Wildlife SOS (983072),
6.30 Beneath the Blue (983077), 7.00
Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers
(983078), 8.00 Lonely Planet (983079),
8.30 Medical Detectives (983080), 9.30
Medical Detectives (983081), 10.00
Adrian Rush Hour Shoot to Thrill
(983082), See Pick of the Day 11.00 A
Century of Warfare (983083), 12.00 First
Flights (983084), 12.30 Top Marques
(983085), 1.00 Medical Detectives
(983086), 1.30 Medical Detectives
(983087), 2.00 Close.

SKY 1
8.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from
Beverly Hills (2573), 8.30 Street Sharks
(2574), 9.00 Garfield and Friends (4542),
9.30 The Simpsons (98088), 10.00
Games World (98089), 10.30 Games
World (98090), 10.30 Just Kidding
(98091), 11.00 The New Adventures of
Superman (98092), 12.30 Married with
Children (98093), 12.30 M*A*S*H (98094),
12.55 The Special K Collection (98095),
1.00 Gekko (98096), 1.35 The Special K
Collection (98097), 2.00 Sally Jessy
Rachael (98098), 2.35 The Special K
Collection (98099), 3.00 Jenny Jones
(98100), 3.35 The Special K Collection
(98101), 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
(98102), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (98103),
6.00 The Nanny (98104), 6.30 Married with

Children (98105), 7.00 The Simpsons (98106),
7.30 The Simpsons (98107), 8.00 The
Simpsons (98108), 8.30 Simpsons (98109),
9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (98110), 10.00
Cops (98111), 10.30 Cops (98112), 11.00
Star Trek: Voyager (98113), 11.30 The Back
Page (98114), 12.00 Long Play (98115),
12.30 Long Play (98116), 1.00
SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (980228), 7.30
World Wrestling (980229), 8.00 Sky Sports
Centre (980230), 8.30 Racing News
(980231), 9.00 Aerobics: Oz Style (98151),
9.30 Football League Review (98152),
10.00 What a Weekend (98153), 10.30
Euro Tour Golf - Smurfit International
(98154), 1.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour
(98155), 2.00 Golf: West of Ireland Senior
Classic (98156), 3.00 Euro Tour Golf
Smurfit International (98157), 4.00 Sky Sports
Centre (98158), 4.30 Euro Tour Golf
Smurfit International (98159), 5.00 Sky
Sports Centre (98160), 5.30 Sky Sports
Centre (98161), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre
(98162), 6.30 Sky Sports Centre (98163),
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (98164), 7.30
Sky Sports Centre (98165), 8.00 Sky Sports
Centre (98166), 8.30 Sky Sports Centre
(98167), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (98168),
9.30 Sky Sports Centre (98169), 10.00
Sky Sports Centre (98170), 10.30 Sky Sports
Centre (98171), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre
(98172), 11.30 Sky Sports Centre (98173),
12.00 Sky Sports Centre (98174), 12.30
Sky Sports Centre (98175), 1.00 Sky Sports
Centre (98176), 1.30 Sky Sports Centre
(98177), 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (98178),
2.30 Sky Sports Centre (98179), 3.00 Sky
Sports Centre (98180), 3.30 Sky Sports
Centre (98181), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre
(98182), 4.30 Sky Sports Centre (98183),
5.00 Sky Sports Centre (98184), 5.30 Sky
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SPORT

WIGAN'S FORGOTTEN MAN P18 • CLARKE TO THE FORE P21

United win £12m battle for Yorke

FOOTBALL
BY PHIL SHAW

DWIGHT YORKE'S nine-year affair with Aston Villa, which began when they ventured a down-payment of £5,000 on a raw teenager spotted by Graham Taylor during a Caribbean tour, ended acrimoniously yesterday when the 26-year-old striker joined Manchester United for £12m in time to be eligible for their Champions' League campaign.

The Villa chairman, Doug Ellis, who has been on the receiving end of "poaching" complaints himself when appointing managers, accused United of "tapping up" the Trinidad and Tobago international while he was still under contract.

Ellis claimed that the process had been going on for nearly a year, but added that Villa had reluctantly concluded there was no point in keeping a player whose heart was no longer in the club.

Only 24 hours earlier, Ellis argued that Yorke could fulfil all his ambitions with Villa and insisted there would be no deal. His manager, John Gregory, reiterated his unwillingness to do business unless he could have Andy Cole in part-exchange.

In the end, however, Villa accepted a sum £4m less than

their "non-negotiable" price after United had increased their "final" offer of £10m.

Ellis, who admitted he was both angered and saddened to see Yorke go, rationalised the about-turn by suggesting that while Villa could keep him physically, they had lost him mentally. "He was determined to get away," he said. "In effect he was saying: 'I don't want to play for Aston Villa, I want to play for Manchester United'. As the manager has said, if he doesn't want to play for us, there's no point in going on resisting."

"This has gone on since last September when he was first tapped - I hate using the word, but it's a fact and I've spoken to Martin Edwards [United's chairman] about their modus operandi. In the end we came to the conclusion that we shouldn't continue to resist."

"I've had five meetings with Dwight and his agent and eventually we've had to bite the bullet and accept the money. At least we've got the figure we placed on him right from the very beginning, which was a minimum of £12m, and there are add-ons as well."

Yorke, who drove to Old Trafford for a medical before signing in time to beat Uefa's midnight deadline for the Champions' League, expressed his gratitude to Ellis and his various managers at Villa Park, in particular Brian Little, for

helping him become a success in the English game.

"Coming from Tobago, which is such a small island where football comes second to cricket, it was a dream opportunity to play here. Aston Villa gave me that chance and made me the player I am. I've got a new life now and I hope I can win some silverware here as well."

The deal represents a record for United, relieving Jap Stan of that tag two months after his £10.5m transfer from PSV Eindhoven. It is also the second highest transaction for an English-based player behind Alan Shearer's £15m switch to Newcastle.

Yorke's defection comes at the end of a summer during which Alex Ferguson failed in his attempts to recruit Gabriel Batistuta and Patrick Kluivert.

The United manager seemed destined to be frustrated again before a poll of Villa fans on Wednesday gave Ellis and Gregory their "get-out clause". A surprising 75 per cent of those who called a Birmingham newspaper said they should cash in on Yorke after he had made it clear he was desperate to play for a rival club.

Gregory is already seeking reinforcements, according to Ellis, and is sure to be linked with Nottingham Forest's disaffected striker Pierre van Hooijdonk and Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo. Villa's interest in Atletico Madrid's Christian Vieri and Juninho is also well chronicled, although they may also lose Yorke's closest friend, the unsettled Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, before the season is much older.

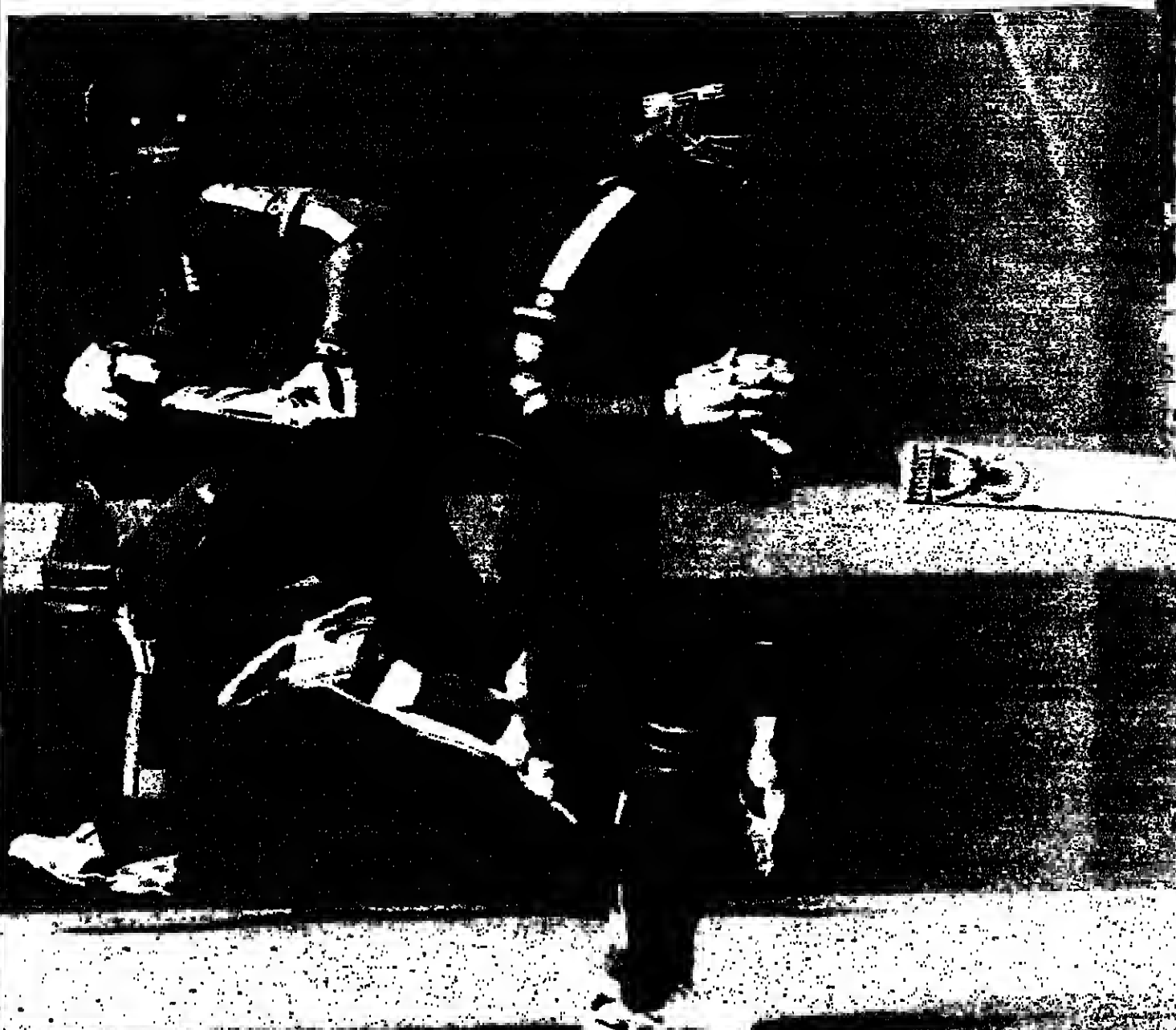
Ferguson, meanwhile, must trust that Yorke revives his side after the Charity Shield mauling by Arsenal and the stumbling Premiership draw at home to Leicester. On Tuesday, putting over Eric Cantona's "comeback" in the Munich memorial match, he conceded that there was a long list of players, most of them forwards, who had under-achieved with United because they were over-awed by playing for England's biggest club.

Boom time for boy from Tobago, page 18
Daily for Rovers, page 23



Dwight Yorke signs for Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford yesterday. Allsport

Emirates Tournament: World Cup holders take trophy with 17 balls to spare



Alistair Brown (left) and Nick Knight cross on the wicket during England's five-wicket defeat by Sri Lanka yesterday. David Ashdown

Atapattu denies England with thrilling century

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at Lord's

England 256-8
Sri Lanka 260-5
Sri Lanka win by five wickets and win Emirates Tournament

IT WOULD have been against the unwritten laws of one-day cricket for the World Cup holders to mess up two games at Lord's and, guided by Marvan Atapattu's expertly paced century, they duly beat England by five wickets to win the Emirates Tournament. Atapattu's unbeaten 132, a gem on a day of many fine innings, later won him the man of the series award. They needed 257 runs to win, nine runs more than they wanted last Sunday. A late hiccup when they lost three wickets for 23 runs in the final 10 overs made the game closer than it really was, but 17 balls to spare in this type of cricket was still a whipping. Once again England were 30 to 40 runs light, their batting losing crucial momentum as Muthiah Muralitharan choked off the final third of the innings.

When Sri Lanka began their pursuit, it looked a different proposition as Sanath Jayasuriya, their dangerous opener, was bowled for naught by Darren Gough, who began his first over with two wides. However, the dismissal, which should have bolstered the bowlers, appeared to have the opposite effect and England, like the Sri Lankans earlier, made risky pinch hitting redundant with an assortment of bad balls.

Driving cleanly, Atapattu added 138 runs with his partner, the more agricultural Romesh Kaluwitharana, who happily hacked and smeared his way to 68 before Robert Croft induced a mishit.

England's gain quickly turned sour, though, as Aravinda de Silva countered with a blistering cameo that included three fours in as many balls.

off Peter Martin, who conceded 60 runs from his 10 overs.

England's fielding, too, suffered under pressure and Gough put down Atapattu when, on 97, he miscued a slog off Croft. In hindsight it was an important miss as Sri Lanka still needed 46 runs and would have had two new batsmen at the crease.

Winning the toss on a pitch used in the previous game, England, having selected Michael Atherton in place of Adam Hoggins, decided to bat. Atherton, not selected for England's previous 14 one-day matches, began well and his first two scoring shots both found the boundary. Apart from one mishit, when he broke his bat - a legacy perhaps of the alleged extra hardness of the white ball - it was a fine knock. Criticised in the past, England's former captain has long argued that his reputation as a batsman too sluggish for the frenetic pace of one-day cricket is ill-deserved. Yesterday he proved it, and his fifty off 50 balls was the quickest of the match.

By comparison it took Knight, his opening partner, 15 balls more to reach the same milestone. But while there was nothing wrong with that, Knight's dawdling later in the innings - possibly as a result of England's previous collapses, or perhaps because he was nearing a fourth one-day hundred - cost England important runs.

Knight was not the only batsman who struggled to keep up the initial run rate as Arjuna Ranatunga shuffled his bowlers like a card sharp short of a few aces. It was a clever tactic and the staccato changes prevented England's batsmen from settling. The Sri Lankan captain, having learnt from his mistakes last Sunday, also utilised more spin, and his seam bowlers accounted for just 14 of the 50 overs.

But, if five tweekers were used, one stood apart. Muralitharan is a prodigious spinner of a ball on any surface. As a re-

sult of England's storming start - they were 83 for 0 after 15 overs - Muralitharan was pressed into action in the 14th over, but was immediately taken off. Apparently the ball was still too hard and he asked to be held back until it had softened.

When he did return, this time from the Pavilion End, both slope and fortune were with him and he had Michael Atherton held by his captain at mid-wicket for 64, after the batsman too-ended a pull shot. Not long after, Stewart followed caught off his gloves sweeping for 18, the England captain not waiting for the umpire's decision.

Graeme Hick, after a couple of handsome drives, fell to the leg-spinner Upul Chandana, the ball just clipping off-stump, a fact that appeared to cause some confusion after Hick stood his ground, presumably in the belief that the keeper had attempted to stump him.

At that stage England were 181 for 5 in the 39th over and set for a total around 280. Muralitharan had other ideas and, with the ball now soft enough to squeeze his fingers around, he mesmerised England's batsmen in a tightly spun web of intrigue to finish with 5 for 34, the best-ever bowling figures in a one-day international at Lord's.

At one stage he took 3 for 0 in five balls, including the now inert Knight, caught and bowled for 94. While it is perhaps unfair to be too hard on a player who has scored 94, Knight's last 44 runs took him 71 balls, as compared to the 55 balls it took to score 64 runs at the other end.

More appropriately perhaps, the blame should be levelled at England's selectors for their confused thinking. More specialist bowlers equal a longer tail. If they do not take wickets, you need more runs. It is a balancing act England must get right before next summer's World Cup.

Henry Blofeld, county reports, page 19

LORD'S SCOREBOARD	
England won toss	
England: 256-8 (50 overs)	
W V Knight c and b Muralitharan 94	
177 min, 136 balls, 4 fours	
M A Atherton c Ranatunga 64	
101 min, 73 balls, 7 fours	
G A Hick b Chandana 18	
31 min, 24 balls, 1 four	
G A Hick b Chandana 14	
25 min, 16 balls, 1 four	
A D Brown b Muralitharan 18	
25 min, 18 balls, 2 fours	
N Hussey b Muralitharan 0	
2 min, 2 balls	
R O Croft c Kaluwitharana b Perera 17	
21 min, 17 balls, 1 four	
D Gough b Perera 0	
1 min, 1 ball	
P J Martin not out 1	
4 min, 1 ball	
Extras (b4, lb5, w10) 19	
Total (for 8, 289min, 50 overs) 256	
Runs: 1-132 (Atherton), 2-170 (Stewart), 3-191 (Hick), 4-218 (Knight), 5-218 (Perera), 6-223 (Brown), 7-248 (Croft), 8-246 (Gough).	
Did not bat: A D Muralitharan	
Sri Lanka: 260-5 (49 overs)	
18.5 Kaluwitharana c Hick b Croft 68	
M S Atapattu not out 132	
P A de Silva c Brown b Gough 34	
A Ranatunga c Knight b Martin 11	
U O U Chandana c Knight b Croft 0	
H P Tillakaratne not out 103	
Extras (b7, w4) 15	
Total (for 5, 47.5 overs) 260	
Falls: 1-2 (Jayasuriya), 2-140 (Kaluwitharana), 3-210 (de Silva), 4-224 (Ranatunga), 5-213 (Chandana).	
Did not bat: H D P K Dharmasena, S A Zlecera, G P Wickramasinghe, M Muralitharan, D J Constantine and D S Senanayake. TV replay complete: 1.30pm (BBC 7/7).	
Match referees: Ahmed Elshahin.	

David Beckham - £6.7 million
Michael Owen - £9.4 million
Gladys Holm - £11.25 million!

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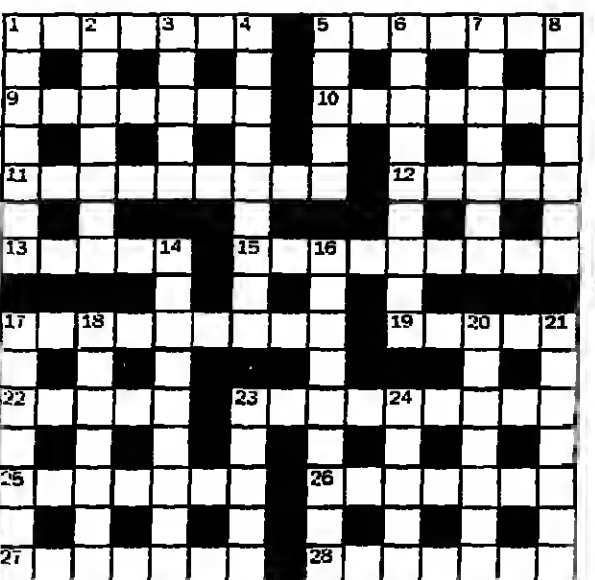
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THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3695, Friday 21 August

By Phil

Thursday's solution

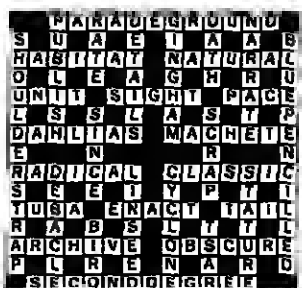


ACROSS

- Big man in bed with cigar (7)
- A good deal of knowledge going into genuine restoration (7)
- Recalled molten rock should contain aluminium mixture (7)
- Self-regard? Understand it is evident in New York (7)
- Marvellous chap treated our herpes (9)
- Child almost completely gross? (5)
- Head of infantry relies greatly on repairing armaments (5,9)
- Every course developed without a sample of healthy food (9,5)

DOWN

- Be against women, perhaps, spurning Society (5)
- Leader of Zaireans serenely ousting King with enthusiasm (9)
- A number without skill returning to board (7)
- Letter from Athens in magazine ignoring college fellow (7)
- It's carrying a lot of dull news (7)
- Severe earthquake or slipping interrupting course of river (7)
- Charles's sister - there's a body! (7)
- School test needing request to ignore a demonstration answer? (7)



- It's located in Kensington Gardens? Yes and no! (5)
- 23 Trapeze turns with some net? (They neither raise the heat nor chill the blood (9,5) and 16 Locate Perseid showers bringing in round astronomical instrument (5,9)
- Disco? Get close, with onset of thudding beat (5,4)
- Expression of surprise: card game left only half-completed (7)
- Long to have monarchy beheaded - to express allegiance? (7)
- English certainly ready for game, putting pressure on viewers (9)
- See 5 down
- The Wear flows in which place? (7)
- Forgot to include synonym of 'glove' in dictionary (7)
- Give more details of errors in general (7)
- High-placed woman finished accumulating Eastern currency (7)
- See 4 down
- Crafty move? It sounds obscure (5)

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The £2.75m kiss off

Anglia Television has sacked Vanessa Feltz from her daytime chat show for making 'completely unrealistic' salary demands. She is paid a paltry £1.5m. She thinks she's worth £2.75m. So what's a poor girl to do?

It might be in dubious taste, not to say politically incorrect, to point it out, but Vanessa Feltz makes a very good "fat cat". There is no reason to believe that someone's healthy appetite bears any relation to their salary demands, but Ms Feltz seems to have confused the size of her earning power with the size of her décolletage. The 46-year-old broadcaster's agent claims the size of her earning power with the size of her décolletage. The 46-year-old broadcaster's agent claims the size of her earning power with the size of her décolletage. The 46-year-old broadcaster's agent claims the size of her earning power with the size of her décolletage.

millions upon millions at home during the day. Advertisers might be selling hurricane insurance for trailer park homes to Oprah's audience, but it's a market. Even more importantly, the competition for talent in American television has given stars the power to set up their own production companies and get a bigger share of the profits their shows create. This means the \$1m per-episode salaries of stars like Jerry Seinfeld dwarf anything earned on British television. The closest we have to that here is Chris Evans. He spotted immediately that if he wanted to make real money he had to own the vehicles he appeared in. And, unlikely as it might seem, he is also linked to Vanessa Feltz. He too demanded too much from a broadcaster - he wanted a day off from his job at Radio 1 - and soon parted company with his employers, the BBC.

And it is this ephemeral nature of television fame that explains where star greed comes from. "There aren't that many people who stay at the top for a lifetime," says Stuart Cosgrove. "People like Bruce Forsyth have managed it, but up-and-coming comedians and entertainers are perfectly aware of the fickleness of fashion. They know that nothing lasts forever and they want to clinch the one deal that will secure their pension plan." "There is also such a thing as 'fuck-off money'," adds Cosgrove. "Once you've made enough, you can walk into a meeting and if you don't want to do it you can tell them where to go. You can go and write your novel, or do the thing you've always wanted to do."

Life cover
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LAW

Labour tradition

Sir: Any liberal pretensions that David Aaronovitch may have had were blown to the wind today ("Watch out Labour, the Trots are back with a vengeance", 18 August).

Although co-ordinator of the Grassroots Alliance, my comments are deeply personal. I am fourth generation old-right-wing Labour - anti-Marxist, anti-Irish fascist nationalist, anti-violence in word and deed. But above all, I dislike bullies, injustice, bad faith and stupidity.

I have worked with Liz Davies and her associates for six months. While her politics are very different from mine, I have come to respect her for her resilience under a sustained witch-hunt that has been a disgrace to those liberal values that are part of the Labour tradition.

The facts. She has signed a tough pro-democracy statement that not a single Member First candidate felt able to support. She is on record as an opponent of political violence and fought and won a libel action on those very grounds against some seedy characters inhabiting the lower tier of New Labour. She backs the peace process. She has been attacked by a general secretary who stands accused of direct personal intervention in what are supposed to be free and fair elections.

They fear her because she holds up a mirror to the dark side of renegade left-wing participation in the New Labour revolution.

Aaronovitch has used the selective quotations of others and his own political past to help sustain a campaign of personal vilification that the mainstream of the party now sees for what it is - bullying, injustice, bad faith and stupidity.

Despite every attempt to split us apart, the right and the hard left of the Alliance stand firm with the Tribune staff left in backing every one of our candidates as each, in turn, comes under fire from some very dark forces indeed. I hope Members First candidates will repudiate the underhand briefings and black propaganda undertaken in their name just as we commit never to attack them as individuals or as committed party workers. Let's get back to the issues and away from personal attacks.
TIM PENDERY
London N5

Sir: Ken Livingstone's campaign of vitriol against the Labour Party continues with this latest attack ("New Labour's newest campaign is based on immaturity and innuendo", 19 August).

He persists in the ridiculous claim that the candidates he is supporting for Labour's NEC is somehow representative of party members. The Grassroots Alliance does not consist of genuine grassroots activists - Mark Seddon is editor of *Tribune*, Liz Davies supports Labour Left Briefing, Pete Williamson is a long-standing leader of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy.

A look at the index of many of the histories of the Labour Party over the last 20 years will throw up all three names. All three are leaders of the hard left of the Labour Party, the clandestine network of extremist publications and groupings on the fringes of politics dedicated to an agenda wholly at variance to mainstream Labourism and the Government's policies.

These are the people who attacked the reforms of Neil Kinnock, lambasted John Smith and would remove Tony Blair if they saw a chance to do so.

They do not represent party members, only themselves.
PAUL RICHARDS
London W6

Sir: David Aaronovitch obviously accessed Labour Left Briefing's excellent and very popular web site (www.llb.laborurnet.org.uk), lifted a few quotes out of their context and produced a tabloid style "loony left" scare story.

A large part of Aaronovitch article was devoted to Labour Left

Briefing's coverage of Northern Ireland and attempted to suggest that LLB is opposed to the peace process. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Aaronovitch misrepresents the articles he quotes, he also fails to present a balanced picture of Briefing's coverage. LLB is an open and pluralistic journal; as such it carries many different opinions on Ireland as on any other issue.

Over the last few years I have written a number of articles in LLB calling for an end to the Republican and Loyalist bombing campaigns and more recently supporting the yes campaign in the referendum on the Good Friday agreement. LLB has carried a range of articles from many different points of view.

David Aaronovitch suggests that LLB's coverage of the Manchester bombing "will be read with interest by Labour Party members in Manchester". Yes it was. I can say this with confidence because I'm a member of the Labour Party in Manchester and I'm also a member of LLB's editorial board.

As a socialist born and brought up in Belfast I want to see immediate ceasefires by all Republican and Loyalist groups, as a Labour Party socialist I want to see Liz Davies and other candidates of the Grassroots Alliance elected on to Labour's NEC.
TONY DALJE
Manchester

Partying Clinton

Sir: The current excitement over both President Clinton's testimony and the general public indifference to it reminds me of a comment made by an American friend last year: US comics and commentators were making much of Clinton's installation in the White House of a "party size" hot-

tub (big enough to accommodate six to eight people). My friend said that it made a pleasant change to have a president about whom the worst they could say was that he liked a good time.

KEITH BRAITHWAITE
London SE13

Sir: Surely it is time to call an international conference for all politicians who have never stooped to "improper sexual relationships", with the express purpose of condemning Mr Clinton's behaviour?

As to venue, could I suggest the telephone kiosk in our village?
LEONARD BLACK
Guildford, Surrey

Net access

Sir: John A Mottram (letter, 19 August) dismisses as "downright silly" findings highlighting social inequalities in Internet access, noted in my report ("Internet's global reach is not at all utopian", 17 August). But he is naive to claim that differences in Net use simply mirror differences in income: all

Sir: In his witty analogy between the reactions of the opponents of modified food today and those contemplating the internal combustion engine 100 years ago, David Harvey (letter, 18 August) inadvertently makes the case for the sceptics.

Our forebears, while worrying about the dangers of a machine that explodes 10,000 times a minute, might not have foreseen that, in the hands of the impatient, careless and status conscious, the invention would eventually kill and maim tens of thousands of people every year across the planet,

the evidence suggests a more complex interaction of cultural, geographical, institutional and economic factors.

He also seems to believe that online access is only more expensive in Africa than the US relative to per capita income. That would indeed be stating the obvious, but it's not true: the studies I quoted show a huge difference in absolute terms too. This may not matter to Mr Mottram, who sees the Net as "just another consumer good" like beer or cigarettes. But it matters greatly for Africa, where that cost is borne in part by aid agencies funding Internet projects.

As the Panos Institute warns, donors smitten with the glamour of cyberspace may be tempted to pour money into the Net instead of, for example, improving the supply of safe water. That is a risk deserving more serious treatment than Mr Mottram's mixture of weary cynicism and confused logic.
OLIVER BURKEMAN
York

Beat the bonk

Sir: As a lifelong cyclist, I know only too well what it's like to have the "bonk" which results from pushing oneself too hard (letter, 18 August). This condition is also known as the "knock". These expressions can still be heard in conversation wherever cyclists over a certain age are gathered.
Mrs M C BRAZIL
Gloucester

Sir: When I was a girl in 1940 and went for bike rides with a friend (whose family came from East Anglia), she referred to the acute bottom-ache we got from riding the utility bicycle saddles of the time as "the bonk". Of course, the expression could well have had an earlier origin but she wouldn't have known that.
BARBARA DOUCH
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

The bottom line

Sir: In an otherwise fine article about British men's publications

penchant for cover babes to boost sales (Review, 18 August), writers Paul McCann and David Thomas get it all wrong when they explain American magazine *Movieline's* reluctance to put Liz Hurley's bum on the cover.

"Too shocking for American sensibilities?" Not at all - a few rows up from *Movieline* on the newsstand Americans can buy mags featuring men's erections, simulated sex in various combinations) and other activities that are illegal to publish in Britain. Indeed, at certain newsagents you can even get penetration photographs of it, that is).

Movieline's unease about the Hurley photo had more to do with its readership - half of whom are women and, judging from their advertisements, a significant number are gay men - not exactly the market that Hurley's bum would appeal to. There is a difference between a movie magazine and a men's magazine: if McCann and Thomas took long enough to stop ogling the cover, they might notice.
STEVEN TATE
Brussels

Sir: Robin Prior's lucid arguments for relaxing laws relating to pornography (letter, 20 August) were right to emphasise the irrelevance of bad taste as an appropriate criterion for prohibition. If it were relevant then the grotesque manifestations of the television game show, with its relentless (and possibly corrupting) pandering to greed and a delight in public humiliation, and boxing, which involves the degrading public spectacle of two people physically assaulting one another, would have to be banned well ahead of pornography destined for private consumption.
MICHAEL BRYANT
Carnforth, Lancashire

IRA cash source

Sir: On my occasional UK visits, I have to confront the canard that part of US society has habitually hankered Republican violence in Ulster (letter, 20 August).

That is gratuitous Yankee-bashing tosh. The sentimental Irish Americans you finger are a minuscule part of a heterogeneous 280 million US population and are found mainly in Boston and Chicago. Most Americans can't find Ulster on the map and couldn't care less about its politics, while revulsed at its horrors.

Get off our backs. To quote Bill Mauldin's famous "Up front" World War II cartoon "Don't look at me lady, we didn't do it".
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN H NAPIER III
Edinburgh

Sir: Your report ("Dublin announces 'draconian' new laws", 20 August) that some of the new legal powers that the Irish government is contemplating against terrorism might be criticised by groups concerned with the protection of civil liberties. But there is one action which both governments could take which would seem to raise no such objections. That would be to make it incumbent on anyone who has any information on illegally held arms or explosives to give it to the police.
STEPHEN PLOWDEN
London NW1

Sir: While it is encouraging to read of the expressions of sympathy by Eta for the Spanish victims of the Omagh outrage ("Madrid sheds tears for Spanish teacher and pupil", 19 August), I am reminded of the curious "reasoning" of terrorist groups suggested by Orwell's 1945 *Notes on Nationalism* - "The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing them".
KEVIN HOWARD
Woking, Surrey

Sir: In your eagerness to maintain the Government's spin on the Northern Irish peace process (sic), you are slipping in the quality of your reporting. I have yet to see you make any mention of the proportions of Catholics and Protestants killed or maimed in the Omagh bombing, although I understand that there were a large proportion of Catholics. Would Sinn Féin et al be so concerned if only Protestants had been blown up?
PAUL PERRIN
London SW17

Sir: Each and every politician in Northern Ireland who argued against arms decommissioning, as part of the peace process, is culpable of aiding the deranged bombers of Omagh to achieve their evil objectives.
MATTHEW TJ EATOUGH
London W9

'Gee whizz' science

Sir: I was surprised to read John Maddox, berating scientists for their eagerness to gain publicity in the (supposed) quest for research funds and glory ("Science's love of publicity", 14 August). Maddox suggests that researchers should cool their desire for media coverage.

However, with a few exceptions, science reporting in the news media is so slight that stories are almost inevitably of the "gee whizz" type. If only there were more coverage of what scientists really do on a day-to-day basis, rather than the simple concentration on "once in a lifetime" scoops, or portents of Armageddon. Would this not lead to a more informed public debate about the science issues that matter?

Further, since most academic researchers rely on public funds for their endeavour, the public at large surely deserve to hear more, rather than less, of the results of this work. And who better to report it than those at the coalface?
DAVID FYLE
St Catharine's College, Cambridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Continuing our series of pictures from the Edinburgh Festival which runs throughout August, the scenery comes down after a performance of David Mamet's *Lakeboat* at the Assembly Rooms
Geraint Lewis

IN BRIEF

make a major contribution to climate change leading to raised sea levels, and inflict infections on countless others. My understanding is that it is precisely the long-term and unforeseeable effects of genetic engineering that worry the sceptics today.

ROGER IREDALE
Professor Emeritus,
University of Manchester,
Senior Consultant, Iredale
Development International
Partnership
High Peak, Derbyshire

Sir: Mike Croll may well be right that a landmine ban is morally right but a waste of time (Review, 20 August). No doubt slaves felt that when slavery was banned. Banning slavery did not give them paid work or property immediately and it probably removed others' responsibility for their well being. Problems seldom have simple solutions. Give it time. In 50 years things might be different. At least there won't be more mines manufactured and laid. Still the old ones popping up and reminding us of the horrors of the past.
ANDREW PRING
Bradford

Sir: Robyn Prior's lucid arguments for relaxing laws relating to pornography (letter, 20 August) were right to emphasise the irrelevance of bad taste as an appropriate criterion for prohibition. If it were relevant then the grotesque manifestations of the television game show, with its relentless (and possibly corrupting) pandering to greed and a delight in public humiliation, and boxing, which involves the degrading public spectacle of two people physically assaulting one another, would have to be banned well ahead of pornography destined for private consumption.
MICHAEL BRYANT
Carnforth, Lancashire

And now for a gorgeously inappropriate Aga saga...

THE SENSIBLE, grown-up thing to do would probably be to ignore the war of words being waged by viciously competitive reference book publishers, cheered on by the great stage army of newspaper opinion-mongers. Who really cares if the word "gorgeous" is now officially part of the English language? What could be more tedious than yet another worthy diatribe upon the pros and cons of the split infinitive?

On the whole, those who worry excessively about usage are a tiresome bunch. More mad correspondence is stimulated by the mildest grammatical heresy than any other subject, with the possible exceptions of cats. Myra Hindley and unidentified flying objects. Already the publication of the *New Oxford Dictionary* has sent the *Daily Mail* intellectual Paul John-

son into orbit, boasting that he has never let his participles dangle in public, revealing how the changed pronunciation of the word "harass" is part of a black conspiracy, and pointing out that dictionaries are now being compiled by dangerous, unmarried feminists.

That's the kind of thing you start believing, if you worry too much about words.

On the other hand, the new competitiveness between reference book publishers is having one particularly alarming effect. Trying to be bigger and better than the opposition, dictionaries have become absurdly inclusive, clogging our poor overloaded brains with ever more useless verbiage.

The time has come for a change of direction, for a dictionary that ruthlessly excludes words and

phrases that are redundant, meaningless or simply annoying.

Gorgeous. Always a dodgy adjective, this word has caused many a trashy potboiler to be buried across the room. Significantly, neither the Penguin nor the Fan dictionary of quotations can find a single worthwhile sentence ever uttered or written containing the word, while the Collins version can only include a couple of feeble references, both to "the gorgeous East", by Milton and Wordsworth. But the death-blow to "gorgeous" was dealt by Chris de Burgh who used it in his revolting ballad *Lady in Red*, since when no one of taste or sensitivity has even thought it, let alone put it down on paper.

Inappropriate. Catch-all weasel-word of the Nineties, used by thin-lipped puritans too wet to use the

where characters ask, reply, shrug and even laugh neutrally, this adverb is used to inject spurious significance into a pointless exchange.

Aga. In a careless moment, I coined this phrase a few years ago, since when it has regularly been used by idle journalists to denote a genre of book they can't be bothered to describe. Always fairly meaningless, the term has rightly irritated Joanna Trollope and has now outlived what little usefulness it ever had. Its usage license is herewith formally revoked.

Politically correct. An all-purpose phrase of little content used to prop up the rickety arguments advanced by right-wing columnists. Eg, no fewer than four appearances in the above-mentioned Paul Johnson article. Use should be rationed to a maximum



TERENCE BLACKER

Dictionaries have become absurdly inclusive, clogging our brains with ever more useless verbiage

words "wrong" and "immoral". Neutrally. Appearing on every other page of Dick Francis novels

of once every thousand words. G-Spot. Invented in the early Seventies by a couple of sex-crazed Americans, who claimed to have discovered the source of supreme sexual ecstasy, this concept has caused untold heartache and discord to couples who for years fumbled about each other's nether regions to little or no effect. It's now clear that, like the Loch Ness Monster, the G-Spot does not in fact exist and need only be of interest to the mentally frail.

Unacceptable. See inappropriate. As it were. Much favoured by would-be humorists, this phrase is chunkily deployed to indicate a witticism. Eg, "When Bill summoned Monica to the White House for an oral briefing, as it were." It's time for these writers either to

avoid jokes or, if they have to nudge the reader in the ribs, use the more honest, if equally clumsy, exclamation mark.

Gingerly. One of those irritating words that can't make up its mind if it's an adjective or an adverb. *gingerly* is now used only by writers of children's books caught in a Fifties time-war.

Chattering classes. See politically correct. In the end. Used by journalists eager to convince readers that an argument has been neatly brought to its logical conclusion, this phrase is invariably a con. Eg, "In the end, inappropriate usage must remain unacceptable for even the most gingerly, as it were, member of the politically correct chattering classes."

Miles Kingston is on holiday

20 Aug 1998

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A-levels may be useful, but they are not that important

A-LEVEL RESULTS are out, greeted by the usual shouts of exultation and tears of dismay. Those whose results have turned out fine will be beaming to themselves in the bosom of their families and receiving advice not to gloat in front of less fortunate peers, while parents and older siblings cast their minds back to their own exam results, and give thanks that it is no longer them under the lens.

Yet every year the same questions are asked: are A-levels less valuable than they were? Has their currency been diminished somehow by the large number of people who take them? Is it easier to get an A in a given subject now than it was 10 years ago?

It is impossible to know the truth - education is one of those subjects that everyone has an opinion on, because we've all had first-hand experience. Even educational experts clash over interpretation.

But the question should be: does it matter? All this breast-beating about the same corny old questions takes place largely because the subject is picked up like an old football, and kicked around each year when there is little else going on in the news.

The A-level system, as it stands, is useful for measuring students in relation to each other for the purposes of university intake. This is the main reason for its existence. But, by definition, the point of an education is not purely to pass exams. School and university are also there to equip you for life in the broadest possible terms: to teach you how to learn, tell you about the world, provide a moral framework, afford the opportunity of empathy for those with whom you apparently have nothing in common (other people) and, heavens!, even allow you to start seeking something called "the truth". Esoteric, but maybe those ancient Greeks had a point that still stands after all these centuries.

Exam results are important, of course. We all know this instinctively because at some point we are all judged by them. But they are a narrow way of gauging a person's ability and certainly not the only, or best, way of doing it. (Though if five subjects instead of three, as in Scottish Highers, were the national norm, this would be less true.) Anyone whose results were disappointing should take heart from the knowledge that many captains of industry, politicians, and even journalists, got rotten A-level results. The key thing - whether you are disappointed or wildly successful - is to see them largely as an indication of ability to pass exams, and not a judgement passed down on your personal worth - certainly not a prophecy about how the rest of your life will turn out. Nothing is set in stone; there is no script.

But why are so many people so preoccupied by "whether A-levels?" Sure, more good grades are given out now just because education has been vastly expanded and more people take the exams. Things change. And OK, there does seem to be a generation of people, educated during the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties, whose spelling and grammar is not quite up to old grammar-school standards. But these things go in cycles. It is often forgotten that the previous expansion of university education after the Second World War also uncovered notable problems in this area.



Time to banish drugs from sport

ANYONE THINKING that the days of hearing commentators praise "powerful" female East German shot-putters and "muscular" Bulgarian pentathletes had passed will be disappointed. The farce of the Tour de France was a warning. Now the Australian delegation to an emergency meeting of the International Olympic Committee, fearing scandal at the Sydney Games in 2000, have recommended excluding certain sports, within which drug-taking seems endemic, from the games. This comes only weeks after the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, announced himself to be in favour of some relaxation of the rules.

Certain sports, such as cycling and swimming, are riddled with drugs. In others, such as athletics, drug-taking is more widespread than the numbers caught would lead us to suppose. Certain nations also stand accused, as the IOC medical commission chairman's attack on Spain reveals.

Samaranch's controversial argument is that some drugs, especially medicines containing small amounts of banned substances, are simply another way of enhancing performance. Athletes adopt better training shoes and better diet, so why not better drugs? But the use of external aids is not the same as changing the performance of the body itself, since Olympic glory is, essentially, the struggle to better that body. Taking drugs is cheating, since it gives that athlete an advantage over others. Who wants to see athletes from rich countries, junked up on steroids, outperform those from smaller nations who cannot afford them?

The Australians have their own problems; one of their athletes tested positive for drugs on Wednesday. But their proposals, for the IOC's February summit, are the best on the table; they include imposing fines on athletes, further integration of different federations' rules, a specialist IOC drugs agency and increased powers for police forces. Such ideas were discussed before the Atlanta games, and rejected. This time, there must be no backsliding.

Drink to equality

SO WHEN women drink large amounts of alcohol their chances of conceiving a child are dramatically diminished, are they? How fantastic! We have always known that Nature provided men with an inbuilt form of contraception when drunk. And now it turns out that, in this respect too, men and women are more equal than previously suspected. Surely cause for celebration, shishsters?

Here's a novel idea: the West takes over Russia's management

REYKJAVIK 1998, when Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan came within an ace of renouncing nuclear weapons in their entirety? Or Malta 1989, where Gorbachev and George Bush pronounced the Cold War over? Or, for readers with even longer memories, the Yalta and Potsdam conferences, at which Stalin and the Americans carved up the post-war world? Well, next month sees the linear descendant of those epochal encounters. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin are to hold a summit in Moscow. A meeting of the degenerate and the dispossessed, you may say. Oh for the great men of yesteryear, those of us reared in the bipolar world of rival superpowers are tempted to sigh. Now, the saddest aspect of the occasion will be its sheer lopsidedness.

The current trivialisation of America's political debate may be regrettable, even dangerous. But the misanthrope that envelopes Bill Clinton cannot obscure the fact that since Britain at its Victorian apogee has one country called the shots like today's United States. And at this moment, when the gathering crisis seems financial rather than political, the embarrassment caused by Clinton's follies matters less than it might. Arguably indeed, the most powerful men in the world are the ones who control America's purse-strings: Alan Greenspan at the Federal Reserve and Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary. But Russia's degradation is in an entirely different league.

Not that it is exactly a surprise. I remember arriving in Moscow for this newspaper in the frigid early January of 1987. I beheld the queues, the bleakness and corrosive shoddiness

of everything in the capital of world Communism, and, like generations of correspondents before me, I asked myself, was this it? Was this what I had been raised to fear? Was this the mega-state whose GNP was computed by clever men at the Central Intelligence Agency to be the equal of America's own? So I imagined another and shimmering Soviet Union, a parallel secret country beyond the snows which we foreigners were never allowed to visit, where you would find futuristic cities, and terrifying technical virtuosity. Then, when Mikhail Gorbachev eased the rules, I went to the once forbidden industrial centres such as Chelyabinsk and Kemerovo. I saw obsolete factories spewing out pollution of every imaginable hue, to produce goods no one could afford. I saw at first hand places whose male inhabitants were lucky if they lived to 50. I realised at once that it would require half a century, and money undreamt of, if these people were to become like us.

But the illusion lived on. As in the story of the emperor with no clothes, we witnesses and bystanders became accomplices in the deceit. At first the pretence was essential. Bush played the Soviet endgame with consummate skill. For that, rather than for his defeat of Saddam Hussein or for his daily massacre of the English language, we should remember Mr Clinton's predecessor: Bush was accused of being too passive. But he had grasped that ultimately even the US with all its might could do little to shape events. Never did he humiliate Moscow, never did he treat Gorbachev as anything less than an equal. That is one reason why one of the more brutal empires

in history came to an end with but a handful of lives lost.

But tact in excess, the continuing propagation of the lie, ultimately benefits no one. Russia was granted full membership of the G-8 as though it were one of the globe's financial heavyweights, not a beggar of the second rank, whose latest currency devaluation has not exactly sent tremors through New York, Frankfurt and London. And the charade goes on. American astronauts continue to tie their fates to Mir, that orbiting tourist hotel of a spacecraft, again in the interests of preserving Russian dignity.

Above all, there has been the spectacle of the International Monetary Fund bending its rules, time and again, to allow more billions to flow to Moscow, waiving conditions that it has imposed uncompromisingly upon Asian countries whose economic

health is far more important to world financial stability than is that of Russia. The cost of such folly is now apparent. Sergei Dubinin, the head of the Russian central bank, admits that \$3.8bn of IMF money has been lost, probably for good, while the fund has virtually run out of fresh money to lend. If those right-wing dinosaurs of the US Congress take a pretty dim view of this, for once you can hardly blame them.

The inconvenient truth, which can be avoided no longer, is that the emperor is naked. That Russia hardly matters in world affairs in any positive, constructive sense. Its influence is almost solely negative, wielded by the veto and the refusal to co-operate. In that perspective, American policies might have been deliberately tailored to achieve the worst - above all Mr Clinton's foolish decision to expand Nato eastward. Moscow warned countless times against it - but still Washington seems surprised when the Russians play odd-man-out over Bosnia and Kosovo, oppose Western sanctions against Iraq, and play fast and loose with nuclear proliferation in countries such as Iran.

Of all the indignities of post-Soviet life, this slide down the international league table has been among the most difficult for ordinary Russians to bear. Communism, for all its failings, offered a sort of bargain, of privation at home in exchange for clout abroad. Now the privations, for all but a few, are worse than ever, and the might and respect have all but evaporated. In this dispirited, enfeebled land, shorn of its self-respect, Bill Clinton will arrive next month like Superman. But what is he to do there?

For one thing, he might follow the example of George Bush and do nothing. Of course, the preservation and fostering of democracy in Russia is hugely important. But if no one quarrels with the goal, what means do we have to attain it? The IMF has promised \$25bn, but not even double or treble that sum would do the trick in Russia - a short of the politically impossible, the full-scale subcontracting of the Russian government and economy to Western management. Why otherwise throw good money after bad, when there are a score of more deserving recipients to be found around the world?

That said, one tantalising historical precedent does exist. In 1867, America purchased the 600,000 square miles of Alaska from the tsars for a few million dollars. What about Russia now selling an even larger swath of Siberia to the US for a few trillion dollars, payable in instalments over several decades? Let me say at once that the idea is not mine. It was advanced, and not wholly in jest, by some academics a few years ago, when Russia's future was a matter for hope rather than despair.

But the scheme has a compelling, if simplistic, symmetry. Russia would be assured the colossal sums it needs, over the period it needs, to turn itself into a clean and modern country, without running up debts it can never repay. Western expertise would be able to exploit Siberia's huge resources. As for this further act of US expansionism - well, America can hardly become more powerful than it is already. Would Russia buy the scheme? Probably not. But only by asking will Mr Clinton find out.



RUPERT CORNWELL
The emperor is naked - Russia hardly matters in world affairs in any positive, constructive sense

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The world's press comment on the devaluation of the rouble

THE FUNDAMENTALS of the Russian economy have not changed, and nor should the team that has led the country for the past four months. It would be wrong to blame them for problems which have been five years in the making. The only way the government will be able to win back the confidence of financial markets is to proceed with the anti-crisis plan it was pushing through when its policy was derailed by the second wave of the Asian markets crisis and the

renewed fall of the world price of oil. And now, when Russia is struggling to defend its drifting rouble, continuing Western aid is more necessary than ever.

St Petersburg Times

RUSSIANS DO not anger easily, and are likely to live with higher prices as long as the government seems to be leading the country toward greater financial stability. But the steps taken yesterday will no doubt deepen public cynicism about

political leaders and could make it more difficult for reform candidates in the next parliamentary and presidential elections. Their prospects would be even less promising

if the economy collapsed. Finding a way for the economy to recover will not be easy. But it is in no one's interest to see the Government disintegrate.

The New York Times

EXTERNAL FACTORS, including concern over the drop in international oil prices, have hastened the Russian crisis. But the key to any permanent improvement in the financial system lies in sweeping reform. Without that, it is doubtful if devaluation alone can stem the tide.

South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

WHAT IS needed to forestall worst-case outcomes is substantial progress on structural

reform in fiscal management, the tax code, landowners' rights and bank soundness. Unfortunately, those were the same reforms that were obviously needed last week, and the week before.

The Washington Post

IT IS as clear as day that Prime Minister Kiriyenko's government cannot handle the crisis and cannot even adequately understand what is happening on the markets.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Russia

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Do you know a country where there isn't a tendency toward doping? It doesn't exist."

Prince Alexandre de Merode
Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is better to entertain an idea than to take it home to live with you for the rest of your life."

Randall Jarrell
American poet

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PANDORA

MOHAMED AL Fayed has been courting Geoffrey Robertson QC, the distinguished Australian constitutional law expert, author and New Labour insider. Pandora has learned that Al Fayed recently asked Robertson to be chairman of his People's Trust foundation, which the Egyptian wants to transform into a Demos-like think-tank on constitutional issues. If the arch-republican Robertson, who is married to the outspoken comic novelist Kathy Letta, decides to accept the position, no doubt he will be well entertained by the generous Egyptian. Let's hope he does. The prospect of Al Fayed and feminist Letta at the same dinner table offers wonderful comic possibilities.

NOBODY BEATS America's political hocksters when it comes to speedy exploitation of their rivals' weaknesses. The first post-Monica television commercial has just been aired in North Carolina by a Republican trying to unseat a Clintonian Democrat in next November's Congressional elections. "Scandal after scandal, day after day," says a narrator, over a photo of Clinton and Lewinsky. "And who stands with Bill Clinton even now?" Flash to a picture of the Democrat applauding a Clinton speech in the Congress. No doubt William "Boy Wonder" Hague, currently on holiday in the States, is taking notes.

FIDEL CASTRO (pictured) has withdrawn as a shareholder from the former Tory MP Philip Oppenheim's three-month-old restaurant near the Old Vic. "He decided it was not consistent with his communist principles," Oppenheim tells Pandora. Called the Cubana, the restaurant is decorated with a retro-glorification of Havana's long-lost Mafia glamour and failed socialist revolution. "Post-Communist grunge," says Oppenheim, who was a Treasury Minister in John Major's government. As for the cuisine, "it moves away from the post-ironic, neo-minimalist Conran



style", and includes a selection of excellent tropical cocktails. The prices are very much today's London.

VALIANT SALLY Noel, the campaigning ex-Lloyds name, has revived the spirit of Emmeline Pankhurst this week, by chaining herself to railings outside the House of Commons. Protesting on behalf of all unfortunates still pursued by Lloyds of London, Noel intends to keep up her protest for as long as necessary. "I should be here right now," she told Pandora yesterday. "But lots of people have been phoning me." Her protest usually lasts from 10am until 3pm on weekdays, and could become an even bigger attraction than Big Ben. Happily, when Sally is not protesting on site, the Commons' police have made generous provision for her chains and signs.

ALL THIS past week, with massive press and television coverage, that "Acid Test" icon and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* author, Ken Kesey, has been touring Britain. In part, his visit has been sponsored by the King Mob Gallery near London's Smithfield Market, which Kesey opened with an exhibition of his "jail" works last week. How depressing, then, to read King Mob's very own "mission statement." This strikes Pandora as the work of a yuppie who has been drinking too much trendy Mexican lager, not enough electric kool-aid. King Mob claims to "utilise the well established rock/music business tactics of rebel marketing (energy/dissent/humour) as yet unapplied to this market-place." Time to get back on your bus, Ken.

MAILINGS PROMOTING upmarket dating services keep arriving on Pandora's desk, most recently one called "Young Execs at Only Lunch". For £500, career-obsessed "twenty-somethings" can meet eight prospective partners for evening drinks or weekend lunches. Isn't there a gap in the professionals' dating market? Pandora suggests a dating service for bosses and secretaries - in this case, somebody else's boss or secretary, not your own. First dates would take place in the dating service's own replica offices. An option would be to receive frequent intrusive phone calls from an actress playing the "boss's wife". And, if the first encounter goes well, the "secretary" can book the "boss's" choice of restaurant for the second date.

The dead have no known address



PHILIP HENSHER

Humanity has outgrown animism, it is outgrowing imperialism, it will outgrow Christianity

I DON'T know when exactly it became apparent that nobody at all believed in God. Up until quite recently, I thought it was just me and everybody I knew and pretty well everyone I'd ever met in my life who thought it was a load of old rubbish, perpetuated by the arms business for the sole purpose of fomenting one war after another. But quite recently I've realised that nobody at all believes in God, even the people who think they do. Or, at any rate, say they do.

The first suspicion of this truth came with the arrival of all those derry-burned bishop from Africa for some Church of England conference. Now, I'm not a great expert on any of this, but it was difficult to avoid the conclusion that Christian forgiveness was not very high on the agenda of a lot of these awful scum, that they were on the whole much keener on hatred and the incitement of violence against innocent homosexuals.

There's no need to take any of these people seriously, but the twit who said that he wouldn't ask a homosexual to address the conference for the same reason that he wouldn't invite a prostitute was especially in-

teresting. I wonder whether his edition of the Bible just left out the bit about Mary Magdalene, or whether he just never quite got that far in his reading. I know, I know, it's awfully hard and stupid and boring to read a bit further in the Bible than Leviticus. But the sublimely enjoyable story,

which finally confirmed that belief in God had completely come to an end, was the innocent wails of Wall. If you missed it, a lot of tots came home from Sunday school wailing and in terrible distress. It emerged that their Sunday School teacher had told them that the late Princess of Wales was probably in hell, having led a sinful life, and that they should repent before it was too late. The mothers of Wales, I fear, are in uproar; "He worshipped Diana," said one mother of her tiny, without apparent irony.

When I had finished laughing at this splendid story - which I'm sure has been raising just as much merriment in every covey room in the capital before the backs sit down to compose their outraged prose - I just began to wonder. I mean, 50 years ago the proposition that if you lead a sinful life and die without repentance you will go to hell would have been regarded, in general, as unarguable.

It might, of course, always have been thought rather tactless or presumptuous to cite particular examples. But the theology is unfaultable, and the question of

whether or not it made a few kiddies cry somewhat beside the point.

The truth is that nobody believes in God any more, even the poor saps who send their kids to Sunday school. Perhaps, in fact, only the odd Sunday school teacher, who is rare enough to merit tabloid denunciations. We quite like the idea of heaven, particularly a heaven with our favourite people twinkling away in the firmament, but we obviously don't believe in it; if we seriously thought there was anything in it, we'd also believe in the possibility of hell, and maybe even amend our lives. But of course, we don't; we only believe in talking about heaven in the way we believe in Father Christmas, as something for the children.

And Christianity? The Ten Commandments and the going to Church and the fleeing fornication and fearing the Lord? Well, that's a bit more tricky. "It's all a bit... over, isn't it?" a friend of mine has the habit of saying, of anything from *Tommy Hilfinger* to post-structuralism. And if anything is over, Christianity is. Humanity outgrows things from time to time; it has outgrown animism, it is outgrowing imper-

alism, it will outgrow Christianity as surely as it will outgrow cargo cults. And in the meantime, we will carry on going through the motions, and telling our children that the Princess of Wales is a star in heaven, simply because it is too boring and complicated to tell the truth: that she was a good woman, who worked hard and achieved many good things; who frequently demonstrated kindness in the face of concerted public hatred; who, by doing what she thought was right, made ordinary silly people understand that Aids and leprosy were not easily contagious, that compassion was the universal right of human beings. And, in the year or two before her senseless death, she used her fame to state that the sale of landmines could never be justified.

She is not in hell, but she is not in heaven either. She was a good, ordinary woman, and that, surely, is enough even for children. I wish it was possible to tell them so, in accordance with what everybody now so clearly believes, not to start talking about angels in heaven, and respect not only the dignity of the dead, but our own dignity.

Some A-levels should be more equal than others



RHODES BOYSON

The examinations will have to be broader, and yet we will have to keep up standards

MY CONGRATULATIONS to all those who did well in their A-levels, and my commiserations to those who did less well. I hope that they do better next time if they decide to resist. But at this time of celebrations and tears, I believe we should take a fresh look at the A-levels that have served this country so well over half a century, together with a re-examination of many other aspects of higher education.

Fifty years ago only 5 per cent of the age group sat A-levels. Now we are moving towards a situation where half of these young people will be sitting some form of A-level. This means that the examinations will have to be broader, and yet we have to keep up standards on all sides. The solution is surely to introduce two types of A-level. The first will be for those who hope to go to university, the second for those who are intending to go out to work at age 18. There is a clear difference between those who want to go on learning and those who want to start earning.

At this stage I should mention also that I would like to see a return to the apprenticeship system that has almost disappeared from this country. In Germany and other parts of Europe the apprenticeship system still exists; it is something that we should look at again. The journeyman looking after his apprenticeship can be a sort of second father and in a country such as Britain, where so many fathers are not in the home, the apprentice father can assist his adoptee. This would be helpful in the many broken homes we have in the UK. Thus could the journeyman as father substitute be a modern variation of an old theme.

We should look additionally at the module system whereby pupils have their examination every month or two months. This is developing very quickly, and now 50 per cent of

students work with modules. Such an "examination" is totally different from pupils having to remember over two years, and to my mind the A-level certificate should say whether this is a module A-level or whether it is gained at the end of a two-year course purely by examination. There is all the difference in the world between having to remember for four weeks, and a test after two years.

With more sixth-formers staying on from the lower-ability group we shall have to assess carefully how examinations fit them and what employers make of these examinations. There is a risk to the integrity of the A-levels - the more pupils of different abilities sit the examinations, the more we must ensure that the currency is not destroyed. As many more pupils of lower ability stay at school for A-levels it is important that the standards of marking should be carefully checked, to ensure that the certificate has some meaning for the pupil and to his employer.

I am very shocked that we now have a 20 per cent drop-out rate in

university courses. Many leave in their first year. We have always been good in this country at keeping up standards and looking after pupils. This 20 per cent drop-out rate represents a terrible waste of talent, and is an insult to those who were put on unsuitable courses. The high failure rate in our universities is damaging to the whole educational system and goes against the British system of nurturing each pupil.

With the elevation of almost all our education institutions into universities, there is a threat of a decline in standards that could be damaging to the country.

What is needed is a clear pecking order of universities to make sure that we in Britain can still have a number of universities in the premier league.

I personally would give the London School of Economics, Imperial College, and Oxford and Cambridge Universities, a "world class" status, seen and financed as such for the good of both the country, and learning. In an era of devolution the Scots should be asked to nominate similar centres.

There could then be something like another 12 universities that should be funded not as liberally as the original four, but more generously than the generality of colleges. We would then have something like 100 other universities that were funded at a lower level. There is no way that we in Britain can fund more than 100 universities at "world class" level.

As for the funding of higher education, this should be done on a sophisticated loan system, again with special scholarships for the most able scholars. It is very important that the people who go to university should be the people who do stand to gain from the experience. Only under such a system will we be able



In the Sixties, only 5 per cent of the age group sat A-levels

to preserve the best of our tradition of learning in our universities.

To improve education, the status of the teacher must be raised. It is now in Britain a depressed field. I was proud to be a teacher, and as a teacher and a head was given, by the government and the local authorities, much freedom in the way I ran my class and my school. We do not want too much government interference inside the classroom. Indeed, in recent years teachers have felt that their professionalism was being challenged by governments who have been taking over every part of the curriculum.

I have always thought that more could be done in schools after A- and O-level examinations. I would like to see this period of schooling used for the advancement of the English language by reintroducing the kind of grammar lessons that have gone out of favour in recent years. We should look after our language in both its written and its oral forms.

I think we are at a turning-point in education in Britain. The educational scene is now totally different

from what it was 20 or even 10 years ago. It is time it was properly examined, and we really need a new Robbins report. Let us remember that when Professor Robbins reported to the then Conservative government in 1962, he envisaged a revolution in higher education. Singular breadth of vision and bold thinking are needed today.

By all means let young people make their own decisions, though there should still be such a thing as a national policy. A new Robbins report should assess the past and the future to make sure not only that our national education system fulfils the needs of this country, but that all pupils - of whatever ability - are properly catered for. Too many higher education decisions have been made hurriedly over recent years without having been talked through. Education is the future of Britain, but it must be the education that is right for the end of this century.

Sir Rhodes Boyson is a former headmaster and minister for education

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Biotechnology comes out in the wash

FROM THE farm gate to the consumer's plate" is a phrase I once used to define the food industry, to differentiate it from agri-

culture. Of course, not all our food and drink comes from the farm. Nor is everything that comes through the farm gate destined for our table. Much agricultural production is devoted to non-food products.

Textiles such as cotton, hemp, silk and wool, as well as perfumes, flowers and vegetable dyes, all come off the land. Oils and fats make soap, and some are still used as lubricants. Starch has myriad uses, while trees give us wood, notably for paper making. Some farms grow straw for thatching; leather, and buttons made from casein, are two by-products of dairy farming.

What is striking about this list is that many substances are in competition with petrochemical products. Cotton competes with nylon, wood is replaced in window frames by PVC, soap competes with detergents, and so on.

Petrochemicals are getting scarcer, and more expensive, while we also know that new biotechnology developments

take a long time from conception to application. Twenty years would not be unlikely with something as slow-growing as a tree.

It is not surprising that longer-term thinkers in applied biotechnology are looking at programmes to replace petrochemical products with those of agricultural origin. The impact of biotechnology will be at least as great in non-food agriculture as in any other biology-based industry.

As the cost of petrochemicals rises, products based on biotechnology and agriculture will become more competitive. There are problems about the scale of supplies - there may not be enough land for the crops - but the products will be waiting.

In fact, the first significant development - in terms of cash flow, that is - happened some years ago, and had effects on the whole industry. It was unremarked, and did not cause panic in the streets, but it has put genetically engineered enzymes into nearly every household in Europe. They will be found in the cupboard under the sink, where the detergent packets are kept.



PODIUM

MICHAEL TOMBS
From a series of
lectures by the
Professor of
Biochemistry at
Nottingham University

At first, the use of enzymes required a pre-soak of the clothes for an hour, prior to washing. Detergent manufacturers thought that housewives would never do this.

However, housewives did do it, and enzymes gave a better result than detergent alone. So the command went out that enzymes were in, and they had better be incorporated into the main wash. Enzymologists rightly believe that their

enzymes are delicate molecules, liable to be disrupted by the conditions found in washing machines.

All enzymes are proteins, and we now know that some of them are much more resistant to the alkaline conditions and high temperatures found in the wash than we used to think. Thus, some enzymes were found that stood up to the conditions, although the problem was helped because there has been a long trend to reduce temperatures in washing. They were proteases, that is, enzymes that break up proteins, and they did indeed improve efficacy, as judged by tests that are more rigorous than the ones in TV adverts.

Where were the enzymes to come from? One source of proteases, the papaya tree, can be ruled out. There would not be enough available, although papain, the enzyme obtained from it, is used in beer manufacture and is a major enzyme used in the food industry.

With one or two exceptions, enzymes used in any quantity are obtained from the culture media in which fungi and bacteria have been grown. Fungi secrete digestive enzymes into

their surroundings so as to break down their food, then they absorb it. (So do we, in the lumen of the gut, which is just as much outside us as the surroundings of filamentous fungi are outside them.)

This is convenient - we can remove the fungi, and then collect up the culture medium, give it a modest fractionation, and we have our enzyme preparation.

Production on the scale needed requires large fermenters, and only three kinds of people had them: secretive Ministry of Defence establishments (long since closed and diverted to other things); brewers; and antibiotic producers. The largest producer of enzymes in Europe is still a penicillin producer, but got into enzymes as a result of enzyme detergents. There were big problems in handling the enzymes, and much more had to be spent in the detergent factories than anticipated.

Other developments in the non-food field will be coming into use for several decades to come, but it was the cash flow from enzyme detergents that stimulated them.

Joe Hill 1:50

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 21 August 1998

COMMENT/5

Pseudo-science, total fiction



JOHN DURANT
'The X-Files' demonstrates the continuing public fondness for the oddball, the obscure and the occult

SO, THEY are back. This time, we are being treated to a full 123-minute feature film worth of Scully and Mulder unravelling dark plots involving aliens with access to unknown and mysterious forces - *The X-Files* (US), which opens today. The *X-Files* was the cult TV series teenagers and twentysomethings loved (for a while, anyway - already it seems like the day-before-yesterday's fashion) and scientists loathed. The twin attractions of Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny, the allure of beautiful people doing brave things in deep shadows, the threat of conspiracies plotted somewhere between the Pentagon and Proxima Centauri; for a season, these were a fatally attractive combination.

Of course, *The X-Files* made no kind of sense. Scully and Mulder studied their detective talk with pseudo-scientific gibberish which would embarrass any self-respecting science-fiction writer. But this was all part of the deal. The series pandered to a particular interest in the unorthodox and the unknown; it suited the tastes of an audience many of whom were struggling reluctantly in the classroom with real science - which is difficult, not least because it has to make sense. Life would be so much easier if only knowledge and wisdom came, not from the hard work of achieving genuine understanding, but rather from spontaneous intuitions and direct wire transfers into one's subconscious.

But already, I am beginning to betray my prejudices. Scientists tend to hate *The X-Files*. In its popularity, they see evidence of a continuing public fondness for the oddball, the obscure and the occult. As custodians of genuine knowledge, many scientists are offended by the cheap imitation which is offered here; by the parody of understanding that is willing to borrow scientific terminology (Scully and Mulder are forever talking about forces and fields and DNA and all the rest) as mere window-dressing for personal prejudice and superstition - or, which is worse, as verbal wallpaper to hide the cracks in crumbling plots.

It is easy, then, for scientists to be offended by this sort of stuff. But are they missing the point? Does anyone except indignant scientists really take seriously the pseudo-



The X-Files tries to find light in a fictional world of paranormal darkness, but in real-life the series - and new film - is part of the modern acceptance of pseudo-science

scientific pretensions of *The X-Files*?

Maybe the point is not to argue the case for the universe being weirder and more wonderful than is generally supposed; maybe the point is simply to spin a good yarn with the help of a little scientific make-believe. Maybe *The X-Files* is nothing more than *Star Trek* for people with better dress sense?

There is, I think, some truth to this. Zealous people are apt to take things a bit too seriously, and zealous scientists are no exception. Sophisticated and carefully controlled research with my teenage children reveals that they liked *The X-Files* for a while, but never for a moment took its mysterious parapsychological undertones for more than mere entertainment. Crucially, they were never even remotely tempted to believe any of it. Given the extraordinary diet of other stuff my kids watch on TV, I suppose this is just as well. The miracle is that they can be persuaded to believe anything at all.

This point applies more generally. It is well-known, for example, that many newspapers - even middle-brow ones - carry daily horoscopes. In social surveys, a majority of British people report that they read a personal horoscope in the news-

papers at least once a week.

Superficially, this would seem to be cause for grave concern. Can it possibly be that, 300 years after the Scientific Revolution, a majority of the British public are still wedded to a medieval world-view in which personal destinies are bound up with birth dates and star signs?

Well no, actually. The same social surveys which report a majority of British people regularly reading a personal horoscope also report that almost all of these people do not take seriously the contents of what they read. Surprise, surprise; it seems that for most people personal horoscopes are a source of mild entertainment rather than useful information.

This is surely the very principle upon which entire tabloid "news-papers" remain in business. Applying the standards of serious journalism to some of the tabloids would seem to be the same sort of category mistake as applying the standards of serious science to horoscopes and *The X-Files*.

This is fine as far as it goes. In a multi-media world, most of us are capable of attending to different kinds of message in different ways - ignoring some things as "boring", using and filing others as "important information for future refer-

ence", and using and dumping yet others as "entertaining but of no consequence". But this does not mean that pseudo-science has no foothold in our society.

Typically, high street bookshops devote more space to New Age mysticism, parapsychology and alternative therapies than they do to popular science and medicine; and on TV, for every fictional episode of *The X-Files* there is at least one supposedly factual programme about the same sort of mumbo-jumbo.

Once again, we should not be too surprised by this. Ours is, after all, a market society. The market is not confined to conventional goods and services; it embraces ideas and beliefs as well. At least since the Protestant Reformation in western Europe, increasing numbers of people have felt free to pick and choose what they believe in pretty much the same way that they pick and choose what they buy.

Selling ideas can be as profitable as selling goods and services, and for this reason the marketplace in ideas can be pretty fiercely contested. What we need, perhaps, is a new kind of consumer organisation, dedicated to checking out the performance of ideas and beliefs. Today, science is in the difficult

(and, historically speaking, unaccustomed) position of being the dominant system of knowledge around the world. In part, science won this position for itself by challenging the credentials of older knowledge systems. What it put in their place was an ideology of organised scepticism - the principle that nothing should be believed unless it could be shown to be justified by publicly verifiable observation and experiment.

Paradoxically, however, the sheer success of such organised scepticism has created a knowledge base so large and so complex that, for practical purposes, most people are obliged to take most of what it tells us about the world around us on trust. This situation creates the possibility for new "post-scientific" forms of scepticism; that is, for doubts about the adequacy and/or the completeness of scientific knowledge itself. Such scepticism is one of the hallmarks of our age.

Well-qualified scientists have always disagreed about important questions of fact or theory. But now, with so many scientific achievements under our belt and science itself in the ascendancy, such disagreement can easily be viewed as a symptom of decay or even terminal decline.

There have always been attractions to Hamlet's stricture: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." Today, this idea tends to feed on discontent with a scientific world-view that can appear cold, calculating and even a little heartless.

We should not assume that every claim about alien visitations, the reality of para-normal influences or the beneficial effects of sitting under crystal pyramids is a serious proposition deserving detailed scientific study. What we should assume, however, is that the existence of so many claims of this kind is evidence of an interest in going beyond what people take to be the limitations of a purely scientific view of the world.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the situation, it is vitally important that scientists themselves continue to debate with the rest of society about the scope, the strengths and the weaknesses of scientific knowledge. If they fail to do so, they will simply leave the field open to the non-fictional Scullys and Mulders of this world; that is, to the people who populate the true twilight zone of serious pseudo-science.

John Durant is Professor of Public Understanding of Science at Imperial College London.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DOROTHY MACEDO



The chair of the Labour Left Briefing editorial board responds to David Aaronovitch's attack

DAVID AARONOVITCH ("With-out Labour: the Trots are back with a vengeance", 18 August) has profoundly misrepresented the contents of *Labour Left Briefing* and the politics of its editorial board members.

There was so much shoddy innuendo and so many distortions in his piece that it is impossible to answer every one in a brief reply. One example will have to suffice.

Aaronovitch notes that the links section of our website "will connect you with - inter alia - just about every extant Trotskyist on the planet". For reasons of his own he fails to note that this same links section will also connect you with a wide variety of social democratic parties, green activists, communist parties, anti-racist campaigns, not to mention the TUC, the ICFTU, and Labour Party and trade union branches across the country. This is pluralism in action and we are proud of it.

Yes, we are socialists, and yes, we want to see this Labour Government move to the left and take more radical action against poverty and inequality. Contrary to Aaronovitch's defamatory assertion, we very much want to see "a socialist government, elected by a majority", and that is why we are all active members of the Labour Party.

Revealingly, Aaronovitch declines to quote a single sentence from any of our monthly editorials, the only articles that represent the views of the editorial board and the magazine as a whole. His assertion that any of us would in any way aid or abet the Omagh bombers is the worst kind of McCarthyite smear: completely dishonest and deeply offensive.

No doubt Aaronovitch's friends at Millbank Tower will be grateful for his crass hatchet job, but he has done independent readers, and Labour Party members, a serious disservice.

A homage to xenophobia

THE DISTINGUISHED former editor of *The Guardian*, Peter Preston (he of the "cod fax"), has written a novel in the tradition of Saki's *When William Came* ("A tale of life under the Hohenzollerns" or Robert Harris's *Fatherland* (What if Adolf had come?)). Preston's plot is not counter-factual, but futuristic. It is about how England, a quarter of a century hence, becomes the 51st of the United States. And Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales become the 52nd to 55th, respectively. The pace is swift, the prose jaunty, the narrative not wholly predictable, the sex raunchy and eclectic. This book can be recommended without hesitation for airline and holiday reading.

Preston sketches British politics in the Michael Dobbs vein. All the British politicians are corrupt, unprincipled and overweight, and the journalists only interested in sniffing out what Preston calls rumpy-pumpy. The American politicians are drawn in the Jef-



FRIDAY BOOK

51ST STATE

BY PETER PRESTON, VIKING, £15.99

frey Archer manner: that is, just as cynical but less knowledgeable.

So - a romp, and not to be taken seriously except by the pompous. But it is still surprising that Preston's picture of Britain is so very depressing, so steeped in theme-park cliché as a "peel of genteel poverty". Is this how he sees us? How he thinks readers see themselves? How he hopes American readers will want to see us?

Some of his assumptions, even for a joke, are breathtaking.

Assumption 1: Foreigners are all corrupt little twerps. The British hate foreigners. All foreigners - Frogs, Krauts, Slovaks, Pakistanis - hate

Britain and are tricky. It is a world-view that would be politically incorrect for an editor of *The Spectator*, never mind *The Guardian*.

Assumption 2: Americans are not foreigners. Many British people really do seem to think that the United States is not quite a foreign country. I have never encountered a single American (least of all an American Anglophile, of whom there are surprisingly many) who was not absolutely clear that Britain is a very foreign country indeed.

I have pompous problems, too, with the politics on which the plot depends. If Britain were to become the 51st state, it would have to be accepted by the Congress. If England were one state, it would then have easily the biggest delegation in the House of Representatives, where delegations correspond to population. An England congressional delegation would have nearly 80 members of the House, or about 20 per cent of the total.

If, on the other hand, Britain were split into four or five or more states, then their eight or ten or more senators would hold the balance of power in the Senate. No way. After all, the citizens of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, who fight in the US armed forces, have been trying for statehood in vain for decades.

None of this would matter, of course, if we were just talking about a romp for plane or poolside. But the suspicion lurks that the former editor is reflecting something a bit more serious than that. After all, metropolitan opinion does flirt with the dismantling



President Clinton enjoys a pint of beer during his last visit to Britain

of Britain. Advertising men think national insignia are bad business for British Airways. Blairite PR people prattle about the rebranding of Britain. Historians say the whole idea of Britain was a racket dreamed up by the upper classes.

At the same time, Britain does seem closer to America than to Europe. In the language, by which as Oscar Wilde said we are divided, we can at least communicate. More and more British people go to the US on holiday and have a wonderful time. There are massive American investments in Britain, and a shared political culture on the Left as well as the Right.

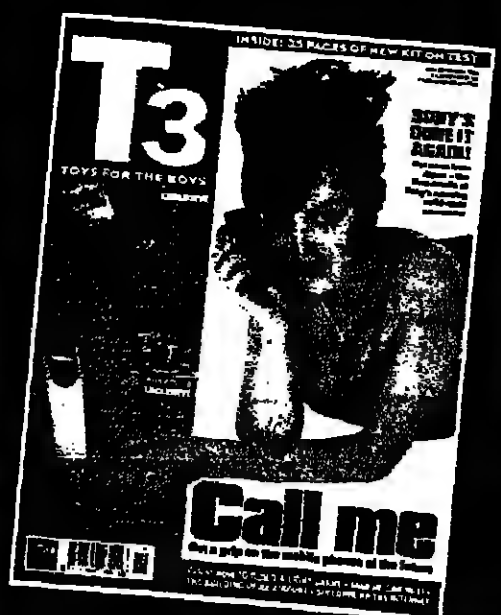
Still, we should not be led, even by such a romp, into kidding ourselves for one moment that Britain, to Americans, is anything other than very foreign. There is, for a start, the question of optimism. When *The Washington Post* rakes muck, it does so on the assumption that things ought to work better. *The Guardian* seems to find it

hard to believe that anything could work in this country. Preston's utterly downbeat vision of Britain's history and prospects is steeped in what General de Gaulle called "morosité". Not that Americans will find Preston's portrait of their country very flattering. His overall picture is not so very far from the old anti-American stereotype of crass men in Hawaiian shirts and women with hair under plastic hats stuffing themselves with giant hamburgers, in a country led by lecherous cynics mouthing clichés. Hard to explain why a society and a political system run by such buffoons could work at all, let alone as well as it does.

Not long ago, a famous American intellectual told me that what made Britain feel so foreign to him was the "sour resentment" he found here. If we want to join the American, as opposed to the European Union, we will have to get rid of that.

GODFREY HODGSON

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Norman Tebble

NORMAN TEBBLE's long and successful career in the academic world culminated in his appointment in 1971 as Director of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh.

He was born at East Sleekburn, a mining area of Northumberland, in 1924. As one of six children he realised early on in life that he needed to escape the hardship he saw every day, so he worked hard to win a scholarship to Bedlington Grammar School.

During the Second World War the armed services offered a scheme known as the University Short Course Scheme whereby you could qualify for university and eventually train for a military career. Tebble matriculated at St Andrews Uni-

undergraduate project, became the honours medalist. There was enormous encouragement from David Burt (acting head of the Zoology Dept) who became his life-long friend.

It was Burt who recognised Tebble's skills as a systematist and pointed him in the direction of the British Museum of Natural History. He wrote to the Shell Oil Company and asked for a summer job at the palaeontology laboratory in the Hague. There he worked on foraminifera and learnt the fundamentals of systematics from other workers who taught him to describe only what he saw and not what the literature sources said should be seen.

In 1950, with this valuable insight into taxonomy, he applied for his first job in a museum, as a scientific officer at the British Museum of Natural History (now the Natural History Museum), responsible for numerous phyla (groups) of invertebrates. He took an interest in polychaetes (marine worms), which continued throughout his life, and he began publication on British polychaetes. While employed in the Zoology Department he met another zoologist, Mary Archer, whom he married in 1954.

Tebble developed his interest in pelagic polychaetes (open water species) and was awarded a John Murray Travelling Studentship from the Royal Society of London in 1958. With his wife and young family he left to work at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. Here he continued his work on pelagic polychaetes and gathered more skills in identification and taxonomy. In his research on pelagic polychaetes from the Atlantic and Pacific he showed for the first time that there were hydrological boundaries in the open ocean, restricting the distribution of pelagic species.

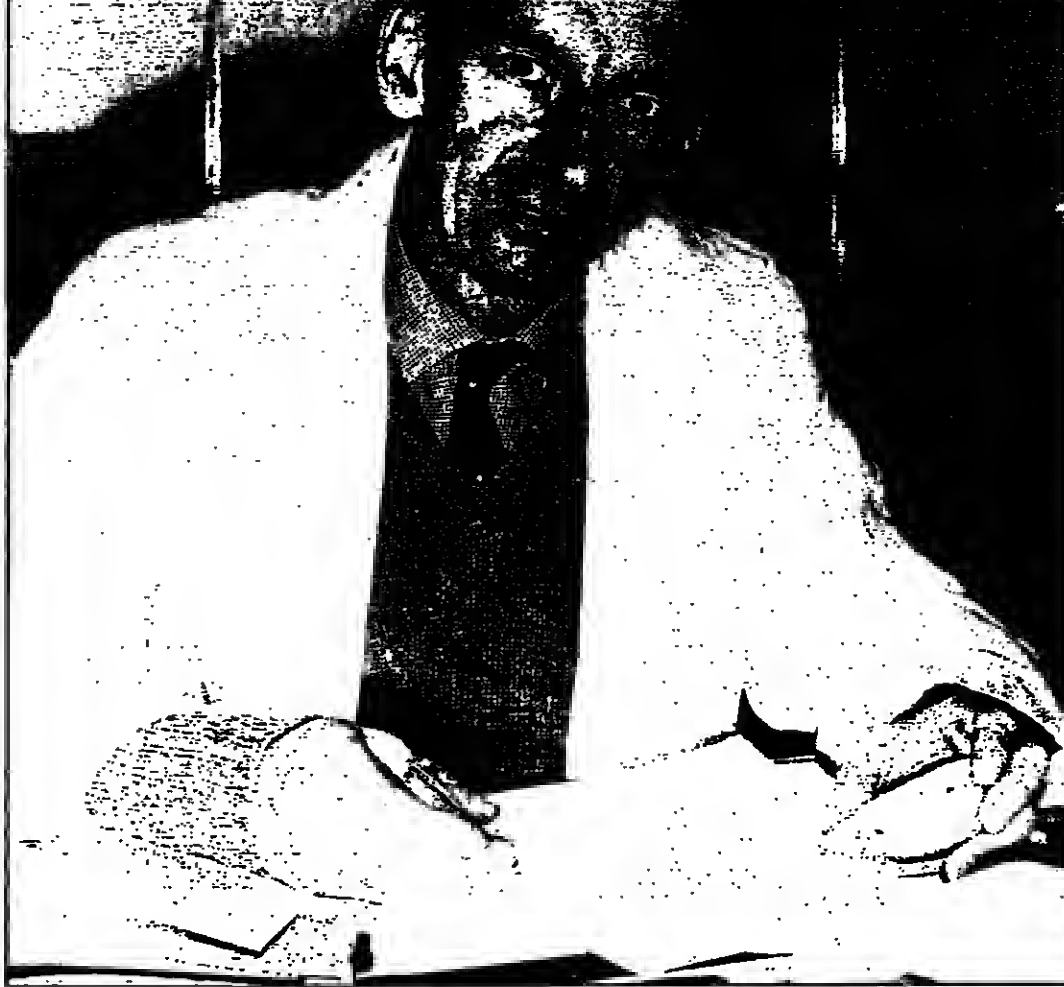
After returning to the British Museum of Natural History, in 1961 he was transferred against his will to the Mollusca (sea shell) collection.

This was the beginning of many battles with his colleagues and managers. He was not a person to take injustice lightly and he dealt with problems by pushing himself, and others who worked with him, even harder to achieve results. With his enthusiasm and focused approach to work he set about completely reorganising the very large shell collection. A few years later he had published *British Bivalve Seashells* (1966), a comprehensive guide to cockles, oysters, clams and so on, which is still in demand today.

Another turning point in his career was his appointment in 1968 at Oxford University, where he had two roles, one as Curator of the Zoology Collections and another as University Lecturer in Zoology. Although he had no previous teaching experience he was voted best lecturer in Zoology by the students. In his three years at Oxford he also developed the exhibitions with an eye for the general public as well as students.

This experience was perfectly timed for his role as Director of the Royal Scottish Museum (now the Royal Museum) in 1971. It was a position that he enjoyed immensely, as he had a strong sense of public accountability. He was not hindered by the bureaucracy of committees as the museum was at that time part of the Scottish Education Department. He saw his role as one responsible to the general public and one of his first innovations was to set up an Education Department which would be pivotal in interpreting the complex concepts of a multi-disciplinary organisation.

He also set about acquiring other buildings and collections such as the Museum of Flight, the Costume Museum at New Abbey and Biggar Gasworks. His goal-oriented approach led to conflicts with colleagues both at the museum and in the Scottish Office but he was not concerned if others liked him or not. He made a point of visiting all staff and knew everyone by name. He had



what is known as the common touch and could talk easily about subjects from football (he was a Newcastle supporter) to English poetry. During his time as Director he found time to publish on polychaetes again and worked on the Scottish Fauna. He fought hard with the Williams Committee, set up in 1979 by the Secretary of State for Scotland to investigate the status of museums and galleries in Scotland. Tebble, although a skilled negotiator, said the enquiry was "like doing 15 rounds

with a heavyweight" and was proud that he lasted the duration of the match. The result was that he had fought for a recommendation that the Royal Scottish Museum should remain with the Scottish Education Department. Events overtook this possibility and on his retirement in 1984 the RSM became a trustee body. Although he held a demanding public office he enjoyed a very private home life and was devoted to his wife and family.

Susan J. Chambers

Norman Tebble, marine biologist and biogeographer: born Sleekdale, Northumberland 17 August 1924; Curator of Molluscs, British Museum 1961-68; University Lecturer in Zoology and Curator, Zoological Collection, Oxford University 1968-71; Curator, Oxford University Museum 1969-71; Director, Royal Scottish Museum 1971-84; married 1954 Mary Archer (two sons, one daughter); died North Berwick, Lothian 23 July 1998.

Hellmut Andics

HELLMUT ANDICS was a prominent Austrian writer and journalist who spent his life attempting to get to grips with his country's history.

Born into an officer's family in 1922 he was forced early on to confront questions of loyalty to the state. Some officers had to take the oath of loyalty several times having started their careers under the Hamburg monarchy, continued under the republican government after 1918, then under Dollfuss's authoritarian regime of 1934-38, and finally being incorporated into Hitler's Wehrmacht in 1938. Like many Austrians of his generation Andics asked himself the question, "Am I Austrian or am I German?"

Andics was persuaded to take up a "solid" profession and trained as an engineer but drifted into the precarious life of journalism after 1945. Although for political reasons classified by the Allies as a victim of Nazism, Austria was placed under four-power occupation. Perhaps a third of Austrians had supported the Nazis and many others had been caught up in the early enthusiasm of the 1938 Anschluss. As the new republic emerged after 1945 and the battle for hearts and minds raged, many questions were swept under the carpet. Andics' restless spirit and inquiring mind attempted to raise them.

Andics started on local papers covering trials, which occasionally brought him into contact with Nazi reality. From 1948 to 1951 he studied and worked in Sweden and the United States. He was soon writing for leading Austrian and Swiss papers including *Die Presse* and *Der Freitag*. From 1964 he worked for the radio and then for television as scriptwriter, presenter and director.

He wrote over 40 television plays. Among his best known were *Der Fall Arthur Nebe* ("The Arthur Nebe Case", 1964) and *Grande für Timothy Evans* ("Mercy For Timothy Evans", 1968), both based on actual events. Nebe was a policeman and well-known detective who had joined the Nazi Party in 1931 disillusioned with democracy because of his acquaintance with the Berlin underworld. He rose to head the criminal police department but later joined the resistance to Hitler. He stayed at his post on behalf of the resistance, an example of someone involved in evil in order to prevent worse.

The Evans case, in which an innocent man was convicted of murder and hanged - he was lodging at the same address as the mass murderer John Christie - fascinated Andics because of Britain's civilised image. It was a hard lesson to learn that even here an innocent man could be hanged. His series *Ringstraßenpolizei*, named after the famous Vienna street, revealed the contrasts between the "good old days" image of Vienna and the grim reality of its slums.

Andics' books were usually well-received and again he turned to major themes which Austrians needed to confront. In *Der ewige Jude* (*Ursachen und Geschichte des Antisemitismus*) ("The Eternal Jew: origins and history of anti-Semitism") he sought to clarify how the Holocaust could happen and Austria's part in it. This is a theme still much debated today. *Der Fall Otto Habsburg* ("The Otto Habsburg Case") raised issues concerning Austria's former ruling family. In 1968 50 Jahre *Unseres Lebens* ("50 Years Of Our Lives") appeared. This is a 740-page history of Austria since 1918 to which one can return again and again.

In 1967 Andics went to live in the province of Burgenland, bordering on the Iron Curtain, and therefore the least popular place in Austria and sparsely populated. Although helped by EU funds, it has suffered recently from competition from its low-wage neighbours. Andics used his energy and journalistic skills to promote the area. He was director (1982-86) of the regional television station there.

David Childs

Hellmut Andics, writer and journalist: born Vienna 25 August 1922; married 1945 Gertrud Cernak (two sons); died Vienna 18 August 1998.

John Aitkenhead

AT A TIME when the dominant direction in education is toward the standardisation and regulation of schools, it seems particularly important to take note of the few individuals and institutions that have followed the beat of a different drum. Continuing in the libertarian tradition of Homer Lane and A.S. Neill, John Aitkenhead, founder and for over 30 years Head Teacher of Kilquhanity House School in Scotland, spent his life putting into practice and refining the ideal of a school that was self-governed by its pupils and teachers together.

Aitkenhead was born in Glasgow, the son of a ship's carpenter, and attended Eglington School before winning a bursary to Ardrossan Academy. He completed degrees in English and Education at Glasgow University, the latter at the newly instituted Honours School of Education. Afterwards he worked as a secondary school teacher in various posts in Argyll, Glasgow and Ayrshire.

Growing increasingly disaffected with the style of teaching he was practising, he spent two summers looking at alternatives at A.S. Neill's Summerhill School. He found the experience of "the free school in the world" intoxicating, but as no job was available there, he decided to follow Neill's suggestion and start up on his own. Going against Neill's advice, he decided to return to his home country, to try and "do in Scotland what Neill had had to leave Scotland to

do". A search for suitable premises eventually led to Kilquhanity, a small rambling estate and farm in a remote part of south west Scotland.

The new school opened in September 1940. Aitkenhead made no attempt to hide his debt to Neill, and initially Kilquhanity faithfully followed the traditions of Summerhill. However, as it developed a character of its own, Aitkenhead's influence became apparent. Decisions about the day-to-day running of the school were made at weekly council meetings, attended by all staff and pupils.

Where possible this was done through consensus rather than by majority vote. This would take a considerable amount of time, yet again and again those who were present were struck by how a group of adults and children aged between 5 and 85 could give close attention to subjects ranging from the ethics of an ongoing biology class experiment involving animals to the financial aspects of replacing the school's football. As a practical lesson in civics, and as a way of "learning patience, tolerance and charity" this method of governing the school could not be bettered.

Aitkenhead believed that children benefit from being given responsibility for their education. What he had maybe not foreseen was the powerful therapeutic effect contained in this approach. From Kilquhanity's early days, a small number of students came to the school primarily because they were

unable to cope in mainstream education whether for emotional or other reasons. Aitkenhead's willingness to accept them, and his belief that they (and the school) would benefit by being placed among a majority of "normal" children (as opposed to being sent to "specialist" units) led to interesting and productive links with senior professionals from other disciplines involved in working with young people throughout Scotland.

Though Kilquhanity was a boarding school, Aitkenhead was often openly concerned about the strain such an arrangement put on relationships between parents and children - something he may have come to acknowledge from the experience of his own children being pupils at the school. Thus, as well as taking on pupils from around the world, it also became a truly "local" school, where day pupils were encouraged, and active links with the surrounding community developed.

These links were not confined to education issues. John Aitkenhead's active commitment to Scottish nationalism, his love of the Galloway countryside, the pride with which he would point out to visitors the copy of the Declaration of Stranraer which hung prominently in the school's entrance hall, the tilt and sporan which he always wore, were all proof of his passionate identification both with his local community and with Scotland.

Kilquhanity closed in 1997. John

Aitkenhead described it as "an experiment in education". In some ways this experiment was open to criticism: for the insufficient depth or width in its academic curriculum; for the fact that its healthy functioning was dependent on its unique location and on relatively small numbers; for relying on the goodwill of staff prepared to work for very low salaries; and for remaining a relatively isolated educational project.

However the testimony of the overwhelming majority of past pupils and staff, as well as that of the many visitors both from Britain and overseas, suggests that Kilquhanity met the primary task of education, both in motivating people to follow their own interests and beliefs, and in equipping them with the ways and means to do so.

Likewise John Aitkenhead's life should not only be judged by what he did or didn't accomplish but by the example he gave in the way he lived. He himself admitted regret at not having found the time to write or publish more about his work. His charismatic style of leadership led to inevitable difficulties around the question of succession. However, his love of teaching, his energy and enthusiasm, and his ability to inspire and infuriate at the same time, means that he will not easily be forgotten by those lucky enough to have come into contact with him. His life certainly meets Bettelheim's criterion that a person's choice of work should reflect how he reaches to-



Aitkenhead and his wife Morag at Kilquhanity House School

wards self-realisation, so that the results of his work reflect his own purposes in life.

He leaves behind his wife Morag, without whose support none of his life's work would have been realised.

Nadine Greening and Kajetan Kasinski

John Marjoribanks Aitkenhead, teacher and educationist: born Glasgow 21 May 1910; founder and Head Teacher, Kilquhanity House School 1940-97; married 1938 Morag MacKinnon (two sons, two daughters); died Kirkpatrick Durham, Galloway 26 July 1998.

Isidore Kerman



IN THE course of a very long life, Isidore Kerman's defining characteristic was his zest. Where other men plan their lives along fixed and predetermined lines, Kerman followed his enthusiasms - which explains why his career was so delightfully eclectic, though by no means amateur.

In his time Kerman played many parts: West End solicitor, property speculator, restaurant owner and bridge player. He was, perhaps, best known as a racing man. He was a regular feature at the yearling sales at Deauville in France and was, for many years, the owner of the Pump-ton jumping course in Sussex and the National Hunt racecourse at Fontwell Park, also in Sussex.

Endowed with good looks and a great deal of charm, he was equally at home in the boardroom or on the

racecourse. But he had, none the less, a sharp eye for the ridiculous. He used to tell a story of a boardroom lunch at Marks and Spencer, at which the chairman told him that his shirt buttons weren't polished on both sides. Kerman spent the rest of the meal surreptitiously inspecting his shirt front to see if this was true.

He was an adviser to Robert Maxwell in his early days and a director of Maxwell's Pergamon Press at the time of its sale to Saul Steinberg - a deal that led Maxwell to be severely censured by the DTI inspectors following an inquiry into the sale in the early Seventies. Kerman himself was not criticised and shortly afterwards he severed his business connection with Maxwell. He later said that he admired Maxwell's energy but felt that megalomania had got the better of him.

Though his friends attest to Kerman's willingness, as one put it, "to turn his hand to anything" he none the less had a strong sense of what was proper and fitting. He took great pride, for example, in his ownership of Scott's restaurant, which occupied a prime site in the Criterion building in Piccadilly Circus. But when the hamburger joints and doner kebab stands arrived, Kerman promptly moved to the more salubrious setting of Mount Street in Mayfair.

Kerman also acquired the West End fish restaurant Sheekey's, but his view of the restaurant business remained a traditional one. On being taken to a fashionable eatery with scrubbed pine tables, he exclaimed: "This place probably spends less on rent than I do on laundry bills."

Born in 1905, Kerman was the

fourth child of poor Jewish immigrants from Odessa. But, though his parents arrived penniless, his father made enough from a furniture shop in Manchester to be able to send young Isidore to Cheltenham College. Among his fellow pupils was the 16-year-old Jack Cotton, who came from a well-to-do family of import-export merchants in Birmingham and went on to become one of the most colourful property developers of the late 1950s.

Kerman was later to become a co-founder of Cotton's master company, City Centre Properties. But on leaving school, the two boys went their own ways: Cotton becoming an articled clerk for a firm of estate agents and surveyors, while Kerman joined a London firm of solicitors. However, no sooner had he qualified, than, still barely into his twenties, he

set up on his own above a shop in Bruton Street. As a John Galsworthy fan, he called his one-man company Forsyte and Kerman.

Kerman made a specialty as a divorce lawyer, acting in difficult cases. His skill, his success and his charm quickly attracted a roster of fashionable clients, many of them women. And these connections opened new doors and opportunities.

His racing interests came directly from his work in the divorce courts. One of his clients in this pre-war period was a well-known jockey called Tommy Weston who offered Kerman a yearling in lieu of a fee. Kerman accepted his offer and named the horse Kybo - an acronym for the advice that his mother gave him when he went to Cheltenham: "Keep your bowels open".

Kerman became an enthusiastic

racehorse owner and introduced others to the sport, like the property developer Louis Freedman, who went on to have a distinguished turf career. Kerman's recreational interests were as varied as his professional ones. He only gave up riding at the age of 86 and continued to ski at St Moritz until the end of his life. He bred Romney Marsh sheep and was a keen gardener.

Throughout his life he contributed discreetly to charitable causes and in the 1930s gave accommodation and help to Jewish families forced to flee from Nazi Germany.

Stephen Aris

Isidore Kerman, solicitor and property speculator: born 13 March 1905; married 1943 Blanche Rowe (deceased; two sons); died 23 July 1998.

JP 11/10/50

Hellmut Andics

Hellmut Andics was a prominent Austrian writer and journalist who spent his life in the shadow of his country's history. He was born in 1914 in Vienna, and his family moved to the United States in 1938. He spent his childhood in the United States, and then returned to Austria in 1945. He was a member of the Austrian Resistance during the Second World War, and was imprisoned in a concentration camp. After the war, he became a journalist and writer, and was involved in the founding of the Austrian Writers' Union. He was a member of the Austrian Parliament, and was a vocal critic of the Austrian government. He died in 1998, aged 84.

William McChesney Martin



Martin once quipped, when chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, that the Fed's job 'is to take away the punch bowl just when the party gets going'

WILLIAM MCCHESENEY Martin was authoritatively described as "the master of central banking". As chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank from 1951, when he was appointed by President Truman, until 1970, when he was replaced by President Nixon, he presided over, and materially helped to bring about, the longest period of economic expansion in American history, from 1951 to 1969, a golden age of low inflation and the fastest rising living standards.

A witty man, even if he did seriously consider training for the Presbyterian ministry (a Washington journalist once called him "the happy puritan") Martin famously quipped that the Federal Reserve's job "is to take away the punch bowl just when the party gets going". That was his way of explaining what economists call the "countercyclical" policy behind the Fed's influence on the American economy. The Fed tightens interest rates to slow the economy down if it is growing dangerously fast, risking excessive inflation, and relaxes them when economic stimulation is needed.

In order to achieve this kind of macro-economic control, however, Martin first needed to free the Fed from the control of the US Treasury, to which it had been subjected in the years of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and the Second World War. The present Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, praised Martin for setting "a masterful example of leadership" and "playing a key role in fostering an extraordinary period of growth and prosperity". He "moved the Federal Reserve from being an adjunct of the Treasury Department to the independent status that we know today".

Martin's career was typical of the old "white shoe" Anglo-Saxon Protestant establishment who controlled Wall Street until the 1960s. He was born into a wealthy St Louis family; his father actually helped President Woodrow Wilson write the original Federal Reserve Act in 1913. He was educated at Yale, where he studied English and Latin and played good tennis; later in life he reached the second round of the US national tennis championships at Forest Hills. His wife for 56 years, Cynthia Davis, was the daughter of the donor of the Davis Cup.

He decided not to join the ministry, and instead began his career working for his father as a bank examiner in the St Louis branch of the Federal Reserve. However he remained a good enough Presbyterian that he did not drink, smoke, gamble or dance on the Sabbath. He soon moved to a local firm of stockbrokers, which swiftly made him a partner and sent him to New York to represent it on Wall Street. In 1933, with the market still in Depression doldrums, he was made the first paid president of the New York Stock Exchange at 31, and was naturally dubbed a "boy wonder" by Time magazine.

In 1941 he volunteered for the army,

and not long afterwards found himself on the Military Allocations Board, with the rank of colonel. After the war he was made a director of the Export-Import Bank by President Truman, and then its president. In 1949 he became Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs and the US representative on the board of the World Bank.

Then, two years later, after an astonishingly rapid rise in the financial world, he reached his apex. Thomas McCabe, chairman of the Federal Reserve, had resigned over a disagreement with the Treasury about interest rates, but recommended Martin as his successor.

Martin was first promoted by Truman, even though he admitted he did not go the whole way with the Roosevelt/Truman New Deal policies of government intervention. Thereafter he was reappointed by successive presidents who valued his caution and integrity. It was surprising enough that a Truman appointee should have survived under the Republican President Eisenhower, even more surprising that he should have stayed at the helm of the Fed under Kennedy. But Kennedy said he wanted "responsible men" to reassure the capital markets.

In the end, it was President Nixon who got rid of Martin because he wanted the job for his very conservative economic adviser, Dr Arthur Burns of Columbia University. Martin was given a magnificent send-off, with an opulent dinner and extravagant praise, neither of which impressed him. In retirement, Martin wrote a searching study of the securities industry. He also went on the board of a number of major corporations, such as IBM and American Express, as well becoming a director of the National Geographic Society.

Although he came from an established banking family, Bill Martin was critical of the old Wall Street, with its exclusive "gentlemen's club" atmosphere. One of his great achievements was to place the independence of the Federal Reserve beyond the reach of government interference. In 1965, as the Vietnam war released inflation in the American economy, Martin increased the discount rate, and there were calls for his resignation. President Johnson summoned him to his Texas ranch to put pressure on him to relax interest rates, but Martin refused.

His other great achievement was to professionalise the Fed, equipping it with economic expertise which markets and politicians alike would have to respect. In those two ways, he made possible the unchallenged authority of his two successors, Paul Volcker and Alan Greenspan.

Godfrey Hodgson

William McChesney Martin, stockbroker, banker and public servant; born St Louis, Missouri 17 December 1906; President, New York Stock Exchange 1938-41; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for international affairs 1949-51; Chairman, Federal Reserve Board 1951-70; married 1942 Cynthia Davis (one son, two daughters); died Washington DC 27 July 1998.

ARTHURIAN NOTES ADRIAN GILBERT

Further relics of the 'Once and Future King'

THE DISCOVERY at Tintagel of a sixth-century slate bearing the name Arthun - somewhat similar to Arthur - has once again put the spotlight on the Arthurian legend. Curiously enough, this slate is not the first stone to be found with Arthur's name inscribed on it. A Welsh historian called Alan Wilson and his colleague Baram Blackett have, in the last few years, found two stones. The first, from Atherstone, records the grave of "ARTORIUS" whilst the second from Glamorgan carries the inscription "ARTORIUS REX FILII MAURICIUS". So did a "Rex Artorius" indeed rule over a large part of Britain or is the Arthurian Romance really no more than a myth?



Arthur: Arthun and Athrwys combined

The consensus view is that "Arthur" was probably a Romano-British warlord who vainly attempted to hold back the tide of Anglo-Saxon migration. His fabulous castle of Camelot, his wife Guinevere, his sword Excalibur, his deceitful nephew Mordred and his confidant Merlin are all regarded as no more than figments of the imagination. It is assumed that behind the glorious facade of the "Once and Future King" is nothing but moonshine.

This negative view of Arthur is not a recent phenomenon. Arthur as we know him dates from 1136 AD and the publication in Latin of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain*. In this history, which is translated with some elaboration from an earlier work in Welsh (the *Brut Tysilio*), Arthur not only fights against the Saxons but also crosses over to Europe and defeats the Romans. These feats seemed credible enough until in 1652 Polydore Vergil, historian at the court of Henry VIII, pointed out that for Arthur to have fought both the Romans and Saxons he would need to have lived for 200 years. After this observation both Arthur and Geoffrey's *History* lost much of their credibility.

Yet there is a simple answer to Vergil's conundrum. The *Brut Tysilio* was probably written in Brittany at the time of King Arthelstan, who ruled most of Britain from 925 to 940. Brittany was then home to a large population of Britons who had moved there in several waves centuries earlier. The first of these was in 383 when a British king, Magnus Maximus, took a large army to Gaul to assert his claims to

the Roman Empire. His eldest son, Arthun, led the British expeditionary force, defeating and killing Gratian, the Emperor of the West, and installing his father in his place. In 388 Theodosius, Emperor of the East, defeated the smaller army of Magnus in the battles of Poetovio and Siscia. Arthun, who disappeared after the second of these battles, may have escaped back to Britain.

According to Welsh records, a second mass migration to Brittany took place in the sixth century when the island of Britain was gripped by a terrible plague known as the "Yellow Death". Prior to these events a Welsh king, Athrwys, the son of Meurig, inherited the kingdom of Glamorgan and was elected Pendragon of Britain. He is said to have won the Battle of Baidan, which was fought on a site in South Wales still marked on the Ordnance Survey as "Mynydd Baidan". It would seem that the career of Athrwys was later confused with that of Arthur giving rise to the heroic King Arthur of legend.

The second stone found by Wilson and Blackett is without doubt that of King Arthur II, son of Meurig. The first was probably that of Arthur I, son of Magnus Maximus. It seems a shame to me that unlike the slate from Tintagel these stones have so far been ignored.

Adrian Gilbert is the co-author, with Alan Wilson and Baram Blackett, of *The Holy Kingdom: the quest for King Arthur* (Bantam Press, £19.99)

'People were dying and I could do nothing'

"WE WERE having a wonderful time when it turned into a nightmare... I have lost all my friends - I don't know where they are."

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

21 AUGUST 1989

The stark words of the unnamed survivor of the sinking of the *Marchioness* record the horror of how a birthday party aboard a Thames pleasure boat turned into a tragedy.

Another survivor, Dino Perle, 31, was talking to his friend, Rod Lay on the deck when he noticed the *Bouelle* moving through the water towards them.

"We were all having a great time on the boat, that is what made it seem so much more strange and tragic. People were drowning around us only half an hour later."

"It was about 20 minutes after we set off that we saw the vessel hit us. It looked like a tanker but I didn't know exactly what kind of boat it was except that compared to our boat it was enormous. I did not realise that such huge boats existed on the Thames - we were utterly dwarfed by it."

The menacing bulk of the *Bouelle* also left Mr Lay, 29, transfixed in the moments before the collision.

"We could not believe it at the time. It seemed so huge and black and it filled our whole field of vision. We were all joking about it, assuming that it was going to skirt around us. But it became pretty clear that this was not going to miss us as it came right up to the side of our boat."

"Then it hit us. It was not an enormous bang - it just seemed to glide into the side of us. Our boat was so small that, instead of being knocked out of the way,

At least 26 people were killed yesterday when a pleasure boat, the 'Marchioness', was struck from behind by a dredger and sank in the Thames. Eye-witnesses tell the story

it seemed to be getting pushed under this enormous boat.

"Suddenly everyone stopped thinking about the music and began screaming. Mostly people were shocked more than anything else, but gradually the full realisation of what was happening began to dawn on us."

"Our boat began quickly to slide into the water under the tremendous weight of what seemed to us to be a tanker."

"Before we knew it the water was all around us. I could see people getting sucked under the water by the huge currents created by the boat going under."

On board the party steamer *Harlesden* which was cruising alongside the *Marchioness* its disc-jockey, Rob Elliot, saw the doomed ship sink in "less than 30 seconds."

"We heard a loud cracking noise and people shouting. We saw people in the water, maybe 50 or 60. Some people were on the boat and it was sinking. It was smashed to bits and it sank straight down within

seconds. I don't know what happened to the people on it."

He described how the skipper of the *Harlesden* reversed to pick up survivors in the water, even though many passengers on the boat were shouting to be left off because they feared they were also going to sink.

One passenger on the *Harlesden* recalled: "People were going under and coming up. For every 20 people I saw going under a bridge, I saw only 10 coming out the other side."

Gerard Ray, the landlord of a riverside pub, the Founder's Arms, was clearing up at about 1am when he and his wife, Jan, heard the hull crunch of the impact between the barge and the *Marchioness*. After rushing outside he heard the screams and shouts of those who had fallen into the Thames. He said: "I could see 20 people floating down the river. I could not see if they were trying to swim but they were carried down the river and under Blackfriars Bridge."

"I was seeing people dying and there was nothing I could do about it." He said that rescue rings once fixed to the bank had been removed because they were continually being thrown in by vandals.

Mrs Ray added: "In the end there were only one or two voices but the police could not locate them. There were policemen on the river bank and in boats calling 'Where are you?' and they were still screaming. The whole thing must have lasted for half an hour."

From the Home News pages of *The Independent*, Monday 21 August 1989

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

DUNN: David Christy, aged 59, died peacefully at home on Wednesday 19 August 1998, after a fight against cancer. Much loved husband of Anne, son of Tulla and brother of Helga. Loving father to Christian, Joanna, Helen, Richard and Philip. Funeral for family and friends to be held at Trumpington Parish Church on Tuesday 25 August, followed by a memorial service at a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, any donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Brian Warner Funeral Directors, 4 Harshel Court, Harrington Grove, Cambridge CB1 4UB.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, In memoriam) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

Always include a daytime telephone number.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards mounts the Welsh Guards at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Princess Margaret, 68; Mr John Austin-Walker MP, 54; Dame Janet Baker, mezzo-soprano, 65; Mr Christopher Brasher, athlete and newspaper columnist, 70; Mr Donald Dewar MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, 61; Sir Ronald Garrick, managing director and chief executive, the Weir Group, 58; Mr Tony Girling, chairman, *Girtings Solicitors*, 55; Mr David Heywood, chairman, Remploy, 61; Miss Anne Hobbs, tennis player, 39; Sir James Holmes, High Court judge, 51; Mr Douglas Lowndes, former director, the Newspaper Society, 78; Dr Thomas McLean, former director, Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, 68; Mr Barry Norman, broadcaster, 65; Mr Kenny Rogers, country and western singer, 57; Mr Sam Toy, former chairman, Ford Motor Co, 75; Lt-Gen Sir Richard Vickers, a Gentleman Usher to the Queen, 70.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Philip II (Philip-Augustus), King of France, 1165; St Francis de Sales, French bishop, 1567; Jean-Baptiste Greuze, painter, 1725; Asher Brown Durand, painter and engraver, 1796; Jules Michelet, historian, 1798; Auguste Bournoville, dancer and choreographer, 1809; Sir Francis Hastings Doyle Bt, poet, 1810; Gustave-Adolphe Hirn, physicist and meteorologist, 1815; Roark Whitney Wickliffe Bradford, novelist, 1896; William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and bandleader, 1904.

DEATHS

Deaths: Richard Crashaw, poet, 1649; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, writer, 1762; Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count von Rumford, physicist, 1814; William Maginn, poet and journalist, 1842; Conrad Martens, painter, 1878; Charles Joseph Kickham, novelist and poet, 1882; Sir Aston Webb, architect, 1930; Leonard Constant Lambert, composer, 1951; Sir Jacob Epstein, sculptor, 1959; Norman Shelley, actor, 1980; Benigno Aquino, Philippine politician, assassinated 1993.

On this day: Wellington defeated the French forces under General Junot at the Battle of Vimeiro, 1808; Marshal Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte was selected as Crown Prince of Sweden, 1810; the Mona Lisa painting was stolen from the Louvre, 1911; the Battle of Bapaume started, 1918; the London dock strike ended, 1923; Civil Defence was started in Britain, 1939; the Dumbarton Oaks conference started, 1944; Hawaii became the 50th of the United States, 1959; it was announced in the Soviet Union that the coup had failed and that President Mikhail Gorbachev had been reinstated, 1991.

Today is the Feast Day of St Abraham of Smolensk, Saints Bonosus and Maximian, Saints Luxorius, Cissellus and Camerinus, St Pius X, pope and St Sidorius Apollinaris.

LECTURES

National Gallery: James Heard, "Chests (II): Cima da Conegliano, *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*", 1pm.

RECEPTIONS

British Safety Council: Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council, hosted a reception yesterday at the Armourer's Hall, London EC2, for the Council's Diploma in Safety Management, Diploma in Environmental Management and Faculty of Risk Management. Among those present were Mr Alan Smith, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr Tim Hooper, Deputy Chairman, and Mr John Bennett and Mr Peter Cole, members of the Board of Governors.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev David Caswell, Chaplain, HM Remand Centre Wolds to be Vicar, Clifton (Wolds).

The Rev John Cole, Priest-in-Charge, Alcester (Wolds) to be Priest-in-Charge, Bratton (Somerset).

The Rev Roger Crossley, Chaplain, Pinderfields Hospital (Westfield) to be also Honorary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral (Westfield).

The Rev Brian Houghton, NSM Assistant Curate, Redford St John and St Leonard (St Albans) to be Curate (to be known as Associate Priest), Redford St Agnes with St Paul (Oxford).

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Brian Connolly, to be British High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Tonga.

HALF-YEARLY PROMOTIONS

The following selections have been made for Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Naval Reserve half-yearly promotions:

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Special Duties List to the Rank of Commander and Major RM effective 1 October 1998:

WARFARE BRANCH: J.E. Stockton.

ENGINEERING BRANCH: R.J. Collins, W.C. Hart, R. Hobbs.

SURPLY BRANCH: R.N. Ray.

ROYAL MARINES: D.J. Martin, M.R.E. Wilson.

MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH: R.J. Hoby.

Royal Navy - Supplementary List to the Rank of Commander effective 1 October 1998:

WARFARE BRANCH: P.M. Marston, M.E. White.

Royal Naval Reserve, Provisional Selections for Promotion to date 30 September 1998:

SURGEON CAPTAIN: N.J. Hooper.

COMMANDER: J.M. Inwood, R.A. Wheeler.

COMMANDER: A. Harwood, C.G. Longman, R.D. Reid, S.P. Thorne, E.J. Wilson.

COMMANDER (AIR): M. Webber.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.57pm.

United Synagogue: 0171-363 8898.

Federation of Synagogues: 011-202 2263.

Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1684.

Reform Synagogue of Great Britain: 0151-940 0711.

Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-259 2272.

New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1228.

RUMINANTS' STOMACHS

cause me a great deal of linguistic anxiety. If you look up *omasum* in Chambers Dictionary, you will find it means "a ruminant's third stomach, the pastrum or manyplies". Look up *pastrum* and you will find it is the *omasum* or manyplies, while the entry for *manyplies* tells us it or

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON *omasum*, n.

they (for the word is *sing.* or *pl.*) is or are the *omasum* or *pastrum*.

So far, so good, but what about the *fardel*-bag? A *fardel* is "anything cum-

bersome or irksome; the third stomach of a ruminant, the manyplies or *omasum*". No mention of the *pastrum* though. And a *fardel*-bag is defined only as "the *omasum*".

Having so many words for the third stomach of a ruminant is all rather cumbersome and irksome. Quite a *fardel*, in fact.

Blood money out of a stone

It has taken
50 years for
Estelle Sapir
to get her
inheritance
back from a
Swiss bank. By
Sharon Krum

Estelle Sapir blew up her first bridge at the age of 16. A year later she had graduated to trains. The time was the First World War, and the self-styled "fearless devil" daughter of a wealthy Jewish investment banker was fighting with the French Resistance.

"They took me in, gave me false papers, showed me how to use dynamite, and that was that," she recalls. "I knew it was dangerous, but I always said, if I die, I want to die free."

Today, at 72, Sapir is physically frail and has a speaking voice that barely rises above a whisper. But the young girl who bombed trains and survived by her wits in a French forest is clearly in evidence, once she is drawn into conversation.

Then, an urgent, feisty, take-no-prisoners attitude manifests itself, a trait that clearly kept her alive, then sustained her during the half-century battle with Swiss banking authorities that followed liberation.

"The last time I saw my father he said to me, 'If you survive, don't worry. There is plenty of money for you. I have deposited it at Crédit Suisse'."

"And when the war ended I approached the bank. I had the paperwork [records show that he deposited \$18,000, worth \$350,000 today], and they just dismissed me. They insisted I needed a death certificate to make a claim on my father's account."

While living in Paris after the war, Sapir returned to Crédit Suisse 20 times between the years 1946 and 1957. "They refused to deal with me each time. But I knew that eventually they would be held accountable."



Estelle Sapir's image put a face to the estimated 44,000 Jews estimated to have had assets in Swiss banks

I was prepared to wait, because I knew my time would come."

Indeed, it came last week, when Swiss banks reached a historic \$1.25bn deal with Holocaust survivors and victims' descendants, settling a class action suit filed in the US that had accused the banks of retaining assets either deposited by Jews or looted by the Nazis.

As one of the litigants, a jubilant Sapir, on the steps of the US Federal District Court in Brooklyn, had her picture flashed instantly around the world. Her image immediately put a face to the estimated 44,000 Jews who are believed to have had money

and property held in Swiss banks.

"This is not charity," says Sapir forcefully. "This money belongs to the survivors. This is rightfully ours. I personally don't want a penny from the Swiss in reparations. I simply want my father's money."

Since immigrating to the United States in 1969, Sapir has lived alone, in a one-room apartment in Rockaway, Queens, with her tiny dog for companionship.

Sapir, who has never married, worked in a drugstore for 27 years before retiring. She now says she plans to use her settlement money, which is estimated to be \$500,000, to

rent an apartment and to indulge her niece.

"I am 72, one of the youngest who fought this case. There are survivors in their eighties and they need the money now. This is about letting all survivors and their families live out the rest of their lives in peace."

The circumstances of Sapir's personal history is one that Swiss authorities are likely to hear over and over again in the coming months as they sort through reams of records in an attempt to restore property to its rightful owners.

She was born in Warsaw to a secular Jewish family. Her father, a

banker, began making deposits of cash into Crédit Suisse in 1938, as the Nazi war machine increased its mobilisation efforts.

It was a prescient move, for in August 1941, after the family decamped to Paris, they were rounded up and dispatched to concentration camps.

Estelle Sapir escaped in 1942 and was taken in by the Partisans. Hiding in a bordello, she was trained in the intricacies of dynamite and promptly put to work. Her father meanwhile was exterminated at Magdanek concentration camp. In 1946, on being reunited with her mother in Paris, Sapir made the first

of her many attempts to pry open her father's accounts and reclaim the family money. The fact that she was all of 18 and Jewish did not endear her, to put it mildly, to the hunched-up Swiss banking authorities.

To hear her tell it, their attitude toward her oscillated between patronisation and silence. "It was like dealing with the Gestapo all over again. They insisted I needed a death certificate. I pleaded with them. I told them there were no records from the camps. I started to scream at a bank manager, 'what do you want me to do? Find Hitler or Himmler and ask them to sign my

father's death certificate?' "They just looked at me blankly, every time. The arrogance was unbelievable."

Undeterred, Sapir returned continually to Switzerland until her mother begged her to give up.

"She said that every time I returned my depression was so severe, and asked that I stop. So I did, but I never gave up hope, because I knew one day they would have to open their vaults."

The family's assets had been lost for nearly 50 years when Sapir heard on the local news that the New York Senator Al D'Amato had initiated an investigation into property belonging to Holocaust survivors (many of whom live in New York in his constituency), deposited at UBS and Crédit Suisse and protected by secrecy laws.

Immediately she contacted him, and within 24 hours was sitting in his office, recounting the story of her family. It was a tale D'Amato was to hear many times in the ensuing months, culminating in Sapir's becoming a signatory to the class action suit filed last year by several survivors and the World Council of Orthodox Jewish Organisations, to recoup Jewish assets.

"This is about more than money," Sapir says now. Of the \$1.25bn settlement. (The first payment of \$250m will be made in the next three months and annual payments of \$33m will be disbursed over the three years.) "This is a victory for the 6 million who died," she maintains, "for all those people who are now ashes."

"The agreement brings moral and material justice to those who have suffered," says Senator Al D'Amato. But he adds that, with the Swiss case now settled, he will move on to French and American banking institutions that he believes are also holding Jewish property.

Sapir's joy is tempered by the thought that the Swiss were brought to heel by a combination of US authorities threatening sanctions and the efforts of a nightwatchman, Christoph Meili, who saved records from the shredder. She once hoped, she said, that the Swiss banks might have acted out of a belated sense of justice or moral outrage.

"I frankly don't think the Swiss have learned anything from this. I sense the younger generation feel some shame, but the older generation, not at all."

"They are bitter about this and I don't understand it. It's our money we are asking for, not charity."

NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL

Singing along with the bright young things

WHEN IT comes to bars, London has a tendency to copy the latest New York trends. Last year, for instance, a number of "lounges" sprang up following the success of various Manhattan establishments such as Jet Lounge, Cheesecake Lounge and The Bubble Lounge. If this pattern continues, London's watering holes will shortly be replacing their jukeboxes with karaoke machines.

That's right, the hot new trend in New York is karaoke. Now that Rudolph Giuliani has banned dancing in all but a handful of establishments and shut down most of the city's strip clubs, karaoke bars offer the closest thing to a wild night out. Indeed, several "lounges" have started holding karaoke nights where celebrities regularly belt out the lyrics to such Eighties classics as "Tainted Love".

The best known of these used to take place on Wednesday nights at The Lanky Lounge on the Lower East Side. Various movie stars have been spotted in the crowd on karaoke night, including Ben Affleck, Joaquin Phoenix and Mark Wahlberg. On one recent occasion, Dave Lee Roth leapt out of the audience and sang along to his own band's cover version of "California Girls" by the Beach Boys. It was a perfect post-modernist moment: an Eighties pop icon impersonating himself impersonating Brian Wilson. The crowd went nuts.



The Beach Boys, a great source of karaoke material



TOBY YOUNG

The hot new trend is karaoke, with celebrities belting out the lyrics to Eighties classics

The woman who used to run that karaoke night at The Lanky Lounge, Audrey Bernstein, has relocated to the Elbow Room, a Greenwich Village dive favoured by New York University students. I went along on her first night to check it out. The evening began with a trio of students performing a very polished version of "Get Back". Unlike Asian karaoke practitioners, who do their best to impersonate the original, this group clearly weren't trying to sound anything like The Beatles. On the contrary, they were seeding them up, though in a fairly light-hearted way. It was extremely entertaining.

At the beginning of the evening I'd written my own name next to a song selection, never imagining it would come up. However, to my horror, it popped up almost immediately and I had to clamour on stage and sing along to "She's Not There" by The Zombies. Unfortunately, I wasn't nearly confident enough to attempt a parody of the original. Instead, I produced a thin, warbling imitation. If I hadn't been somewhat the worse for wear it would have been one of the most embarrassing experiences of my life.

ONE OF the surprise hits of the current television season is *Guinness World Records*, which debuted three weeks ago. It's like a creepy, X-rated version of *The Record Breakers*, featuring a circus troupe of freaks and weirdos.

The records that are broken have little to do with the mental dedication that Roy Castle used to sing about and much more to do with genetic mutation. So far, the records that have been "broken" include the world's largest tumour and the world's smallest twins. This week, the star attraction was a man who nailed a block of wood to his face. Somehow, I don't think that's an activity that would have passed muster with the McWhirter twins.

However, it's been a huge success, right up there with America's *Dumbest Criminals*. Over the three weeks of its run it's averaged, as TV jargon has it, a 7.8 rating and a 13 share, which means it's being watched by 7.8 million people and 13 per cent of all households watching television in its time slot. Poor old Roy Castle must be spinning in his grave.

VIDEO-CAMERAS are rapidly becoming the pervert's must-have accessory in New York. A couple of weeks ago, a man was arrested for trying to film up the skirts of unsuspecting women sitting on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Apparently, this wasn't the first time this had happened. Museum security guards told *The New York Post* that the area is a "prime stalking ground for video perverts".

More recently, a friend returned to work after her lunchbreak to find an anonymous video cassette on her desk. It turned out to be footage of her entering her flat. She's completely freaked out, not least because it was evidently shot from one of the flats opposite.

Video camera manufacturers have even begun to inadvertently play into the hands of these video perverts. Sony said it was recalling a new model which it had equipped with an infrared facility to enable wild-life enthusiasts to film animals in the dark. Apparently, when used in daylight the camera is able to see through people's clothes to reveal what underwear they're wearing - or whether they're not wearing any at all.

So far, 600,000 of these new X-ray video cameras have been sold and they're already being offered at 10 times their original price on the black market. I better start saving up.

Get two tickets for the price of one to see The Avengers

The Independent & Independent on Sunday, Warner Bros and Odeon Cinemas have joined forces to offer you the chance to get two tickets for the price of one to see it for yourself.



How to claim your ticket:

To claim your ticket simply cut out The Independent token from the panel below. Attach it to the voucher that you saved from The Independent on Sunday (16 August) or save The Independent token and attach it to the same voucher panel which will appear again in this week's Independent on Sunday (23 August). Then present the complete voucher at the box office. The voucher will entitle you to one complimentary standard Odeon ticket for 'The Avengers' when purchasing another ticket for the same performance of the film. The value of the free ticket can only be equal to or less than the value of the paid for ticket. This voucher is only valid from Monday 24 August onwards for the duration of the film release.

The Independent token:

The Independent
Token



THE AVENGERS

ODEON

FANTASY ABOUT FILM

Terms and Conditions: 1. The voucher entitles the holder to one complimentary standard Odeon ticket for The Avengers when purchasing another ticket for the same performance of the film. The value of the ticket can only be equal to or less than the value of the paid for ticket. 2. The voucher is valid only from Monday 24 August 1998 onwards (AND NOT BEFORE) for the duration of the film release. Please check with your nearest Odeon for film and seat availability before leaving. 3. The voucher may not be used in conjunction with any other offer. No cash alternative. 4. The voucher is not valid at the following Odeon sites: Leicester Sq. and Mezzanine, West End, Haymarket, Blackpool, Hamilton, Barrow, Bradford, Doncaster, York, Bristol, Torquay, Reading, Maxwell Hill, Aylesbury, Harlow, Norwich, Underage and Salford. 5. Only one voucher may be used per household. No photocopies are acceptable. 6. Odeon Cinemas reserves the right to refuse admission and standard conditions of purchase apply. 7. Offer not open to employees of Warner Bros, Odeon Cinemas, The Independent, their families, agencies or anyone else connected with this promotion. 8. In the event of a dispute, the manager's decision is final. 9. To The Cashier: Please issue a complimentary ticket for the free ticket.

JP 11/10/98

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Betting on recession, George Walker is counting on the fact that many people gamble more when times are hard. Greyhound racing is just one way of making a quick buck

Peter Macdiarmid

Going to the dogs (and other ways to survive a recession)

Once bitten, but far from twice shy: three born-again entrepreneurs offer advice to the business wannabes. By Jack O'Sullivan

As impoverished Russian workers fret about their economic plight, they can enjoy a small comfort from Britain. In bars across Moscow, they can gamble a few roubles on the seven o'clock at Hackney dog track. The race meeting is beamed in live by satellite; eight Russians commenting from a studio in east London relay the fortunes of London's top dogs chasing a mechanical stuffed hare.

What better way to beat recession than make a million roubles at Hackney? That's the prospect George Walker is offering the desperate. And for him each bet presents an equally wonderful prospect. George, now 69, famously lost his own fortune when he went bust in the last recession. He is trying to make it again in Moscow and beat the threatened economic downturn here in Britain. He is banking on the lesson of a lifetime in betting: "People gamble more when times are tough."

George understands desperation. If you want to learn how to beat recession, he is your man. Because he has hit the bottom - and he has no intention of returning. And we need some help. The doom sayers are talking us back into the gloomy early Nineties just as we finally asked for a pay rise.

In the excessive days of the Eighties, George seemed to have a licence to print money. Chief executive of Brent Walker, the leisure group, he was worth maybe £50m on paper. Not had for an East End boy who left school at 14 to become a porter in Billingsgate fish market. There was the large 15th century rectory with swimming pool in Essex. A £3m house in Pall Mall. His daughter had married the Marquis of Milford Haven. "I had a BMW 8 series, my wife had a Jeep, my son had a Porsche," he recalls. "I was on 600 grand a year."

George had what he likes to call "polish". Not quite respectability. But he had under-estimated our ability to tolerate laddered fights when times are hard. So when interest rates doubled, Sophie, like George, disappeared under a mountain of debt. She and her husband, Richard Ross, whose joint shareholding had been worth £50m a couple of years before, found that their equity was valueless.



George Walker
Former champion boxer, 69, and Billingsgate porter. Brains behind Brent Cross shopping centre. Sacked as chief executive of Brent Walker, the leisure group, in 1990 and lost £30m fortune. Bankrupted 1993. Cleared in 1994 on charges of theft and false accounting. Launched Premier Telesports in 1996, which broadcasts racing to Russia for betting purposes

"Polish" could never quite give shine to a face beaten into a grim visage by his early life as a champion boxer. Nor could it gloss over his 18 months inside for nicking nylon from the Royal Victoria Docks. But amid the shifting morality of the Eighties' boom, George Walker was a hero.

Then his byzantine empire collapsed when the banks pulled the plug. By the time they had finished with him, men in cheap suits were pawing his boxing trophies. "They actually rang the bank to see if they should sell them. They even took the watch off my wrist and sold it." That was in 1993, although it was another couple of years until he was cleared of allegations of theft and false accounting and the phoenix could rise again.

I am also consulting Sophie Mirman for recession-beating wisdom. Put her beside George Walker and you get beauty and the beast. She has efficient elegance and a hint of French accent from her mother - a millionaire to the Queen. Yet in the Eighties, she and George played the same game. Fast expansion.

Sophie Mirman brought us Sock Shop. And, like George, she borrowed heavily to finance a massive expansion of kiosks devoted to changing what went on in our shoes. At 31, she was the 188th richest person in Britain and its youngest millionaire.

So I decided to open a shop that is a fun experience."

And it is. There is a juice bar to appease those cries of "I'm thirsty", the *Jungle Book* soundtrack plays in the background, the shoe department has a train in it, the hair-dressing salon is like a ferryboat with portholes giving views of mirrors and a fish tank.

Like Walker, Mirman has gone into a very different type of business. But others have stuck with a tried and tested enterprise that ultimately failed in the last recession. Like John Coyle. In the heydays of the Eighties he ran a financial PR company and was personally worth £5m. A fair slice, he admits, went on

house in the comfortable London suburb of Highgate.

So what wisdom can these victims of recession offer? First - be very suspicious of banks. "We have no borrowings. The business is entirely self-financing," says Mirman, whose horror of losing her business to bankers has put her off expanding. There are just two branches of Trotters, which remains a private business with a turnover of about £3m a year; a tiny enterprise compared with Sock Shop.

"In the very first week of Trotters, we must have had 20 offers of franchise deals. I found it frightening how willing people were to throw money at something that was un-

mistake he made was giving personal guarantees."

George Walker certainly agrees. When his company Brent Walker got into trouble, the banks demanded that he invest some of his own money. He put in £30m, borrowing from one of the banks against almost all his family's assets. The deal was that Walker would stay on as chief executive. Five months later he was deposed. Having lost his huge salary, the banks pushed him into personal bankruptcy. "I can't believe how stupid I was to give a personal guarantee like that," he says now. "You never know how ruthless banks can be. I lost everything. It put terrible pressure on my marriage. My advice to anyone this time around is make sure you never take a personal loan from the bank that funds the company. And don't put too much trust in your fellow directors."

At this John Coyle nods in agreement. He borrowed from the company's bank. He also feels badly let down by former colleagues. And what about borrowing in general? Like Sophie Mirman, Walker is chastened. "I'm a lot more cautious." His new company has no debt. "It is funded entirely by shareholders' money." But unlike Sophie Mirman, he would love to relive the Eighties. "If I could build another Brent Walker, I would. If I find that

these units I'm setting up just break even then I will build up slowly, but if I find they are making a lot of money, I'll borrow as much as possible to expand." He doesn't favour Mirman conservatism. "If you want to run one thing and be comfortable it's fine. But it's not very exciting, is it?"

On other matters, they agree. Harrowing experience seems to give former victims a nose for bad times. George Walker says: "At Brent Walker the top management thought it best not to talk about weaknesses. But now I make sure that everyone knows where we are."

Will these reborn entrepreneurs of the Thatcher era survive another slump? Mirman believes that having no borrowing and being small in a well-off, niche market will save her this time. Coyle is happy being less beholden to the banks, careful not to be in expensive offices and believes he has found more trustworthy colleagues. "It is a triumph of hope over experience," he muses.

Walker relies on the seductiveness of gambling. "It looks like tough times are coming. But a bet is a packet of fags, a beer. That's our market: builders, painters. A bet doesn't matter to them. I've got good options on shares and a reasonable salary. If this company works as well as I think it will, I should be wealthy again, slump or no slump."



Sophie Mirman
One-time darling of the City, aged 41. With husband Richard Ross founded Sock Shop in 1983, investing £2,000 of their money. Company was floated in 1987 at £72m. Over-expansion to 150 shops and losses in America forced them out in 1990. Immediately set up Trotters, a successful upmarket children's store in west London. Two shops. No plans for expansion

"wine, women and song". But throat cancer, the slump and high interest rates pushed him into bankruptcy from which he was discharged only in 1995. The country cottage went, so did the flat in the Barbican and his marriage. "I ended up renting a one-bedroom flat in Essex," he remembers, a slight rasp recalling the cancer that is now cured.

Coyle is now back with a new financial PR company - Basham and Coyle - which has a fee income of £1.3m, just about where his last business was before the bust. And he, his new partner and young son are relocated in a six-bedroom

proven. The answer is always 'no'. I really enjoy what I am doing now. Life is too short to risk ruining it just to have more shops."

Richard Ross, her husband and business partner, recalls: "There is a moment when, by sleight of hand, you find that 'you've never had it so good' suddenly becomes 'you've had it too good'."

Mirman and Ross were lucky. They kept the shirts on their backs - they had sold shareholdings before the collapse for £1.5m and had enough to start up another business. They did not go bankrupt. "I really admire George Walker for his resilience," says Ross, "but the big



John Coyle
Former journalist, 53, and founder of Broad St, one of the most successful financial PR companies of the Eighties. Then founded Square Mile Communications, but went personally bankrupt in 1992 after successful treatment for throat cancer. Re-emerged in December 1995 and in April 1997 co-founded Basham and Coyle, a fast-growing financial PR company in the City

My father's girlfriend is young enough to be me

Chelsea Clinton now has to confront her sexuality in relation to her father. By Oliver James

HOW WOULD YOU feel if your dad had an affair with a girl young enough to be you? For Chelsea Clinton, by far the most uncomfortable aspect of her father's inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky may be the White House intern's youth.

The cases I have encountered suggest that there will be short-term emotional damage, at least. One patient's father had worked his way through most of the girls in her school when she was 15 years old. The more he did it, the more anxious she became about his intentions towards her (thankfully, he never did touch her). Another patient discovered her father in coils with the 16-year-old daughter of a family friend. Not surprisingly, it put her off men for quite a few years.

Chelsea has been forced by the media coverage to picture Lewinsky performing oral sex on her father. Few children like to think of their parents as sexual beings at all, let alone

to have to contemplate specifics. At best, she will be able to make a joke of it, at worst it will disgust and horrify. But these are only the emotions of which she will be conscious.

When small, all children express their unfocused, more or less unconscious, libidinal desires towards parents, as part of the somewhat random flow of emotion and sensuality that being a baby and toddler entails. They soon learn that explicitly genital contact must be repressed and from then on, are repulsed by the idea.

In Chelsea's case, having a distant, unavailable but charismatic and handsome father makes him even more of a potential object of desire than usual. Little girls with such fathers often flirt as a way of getting their attention. It is possible that Chelsea actually feels competitive



Chelsea Clinton may find her father's choice...

with Lewinsky's jealousy. If so, she may feel intense guilt, which could lead to psychiatric symptoms (like obsessions or hysterics) which symbolise her wicked, forbidden wishes.

This being America, she may also have begun to worry that her father has been sexually abusive to her in the past or to re-evaluate the relationship. If he could act "inappropriately" with Lewinsky, what might have happened between him and her?

Lewinsky's age is likely to be far more of a problem than the humiliation of her parents. It is extremely rare for driven, workaholic men to be much at home during their offspring's early childhood. Chelsea will perceive him as a remote figure who has been in very public and substantial trouble - often because of sexual peccadilloes - from as early as she can remember. If he screws up it happens to him, not unconsciously to her, because she is not identified with him.

His career may seem more like



...of Monica Lewinsky inappropriate on grounds of age

a soap opera that she occasionally tunes into. If Daddy's career goes wrong it only affects her real life if the family finances do likewise. Otherwise, she may read about him in

the paper or see him on the telly but the plot developments of his career may seem to be largely unconnected with her first-hand experience.

Although Hillary may not have been around much in childhood either, the chances are that Chelsea is more identified with her. To the extent that Hillary does feel humiliated, Chelsea may too, but there are good reasons to doubt Hillary does feel like this. Their relationship is of a kind that is common in business and political culture where wives accept that their husbands are unfaithful.

The very successfulness of such men is often an attempt to compensate for feelings of powerlessness or personal inadequacy. Addicted to conquest in the workplace, they are unable to switch off their Will To Power. Domination of subordinate

and sometimes admiring women buttresses their fragile egos when there are no deals to be done.

Although it is claimed that Hillary did not know the truth about the Lewinsky affair, if the novel *Primary Colors* (allegedly about the Clintons) is to be believed, she knows all too well that her husband's sexual adventures are a permanent time-bomb.

Most probably her feeling about the matter is merely of annoyance that he has been caught out, not that the nation looks on her as a betrayed woman. Humiliation may be a card the spin doctors play to create sympathy, not because she truly feels it. Chelsea would not be much troubled by a non-existent embarrassment in her mother.

Of only one thing can we be confident amidst the speculation, Chelsea Clinton will have been shaken by the inappropriateness of her father's choice of sexual partner.

Life on Mars – war of the words

A group of scientists claim evidence of former life on the red planet. Go on, prove it, say the rest. By Steve Connor

In August 1996, a team of American scientists took the world by storm. They said they had discovered possible traces of life on a meteorite from Mars and threw down the gauntlet to the rest of the scientific community to prove them wrong – or right. Two years later, the debate has turned sour.

Rather than settling the question of whether the meteorite once harboured microscopic life, the scientists have become embroiled in a bitter war of words, accusing each other of bias and intellectual blindness. "It's more than just being polarised into two opposing camps," says Professor Bruce Jakosky of the University of Colorado. "People are digging in their heels. The arguments are getting vitriolic. It's getting personal."

The debate centres on the claims made by scientists from the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), in collaboration with researchers from Stanford University in California. At a press conference organised by Nasa, the scientists made the boldest claims yet in support of life on Mars. "The evidence strongly suggests primitive life may have existed on Mars more than 3.6 billion years ago," they said. The fact that their statements had the imprimatur of Nasa – and effectively the US government – ensured that the press coverage went ballistic.

Buried in the maelstrom of words and interviews dating back to that August announcement, was a challenge from David McKay, a planetary scientist from Nasa's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas and leader of the research team. "We are putting this evidence out to the scientific community for other investigators to verify, enhance, attack – disprove if they can – as part of the scientific process," Dr McKay had said. "Then, within a year or two, we hope to resolve the question one way or the other. What we have found to be the most reasonable interpretation is of such radical nature that it will only be accepted or rejected after other groups either confirm our findings or overturn them."

That two-year deadline is now up, and scientists seem to be further apart than ever on a meteorite called ALH84001. Dr McKay said this week that the critics have been unable to prove anything that undermines the original contention that the potato-sized lump of Martian rock bears the signature of extra-terrestrial life. "We feel a lot of the criticism is unfair or just flat wrong. There's a lot of resentment against the publicity we have had. Some of our critics are jealous because they want their own publicity. Some of our critics are simply just resentful."

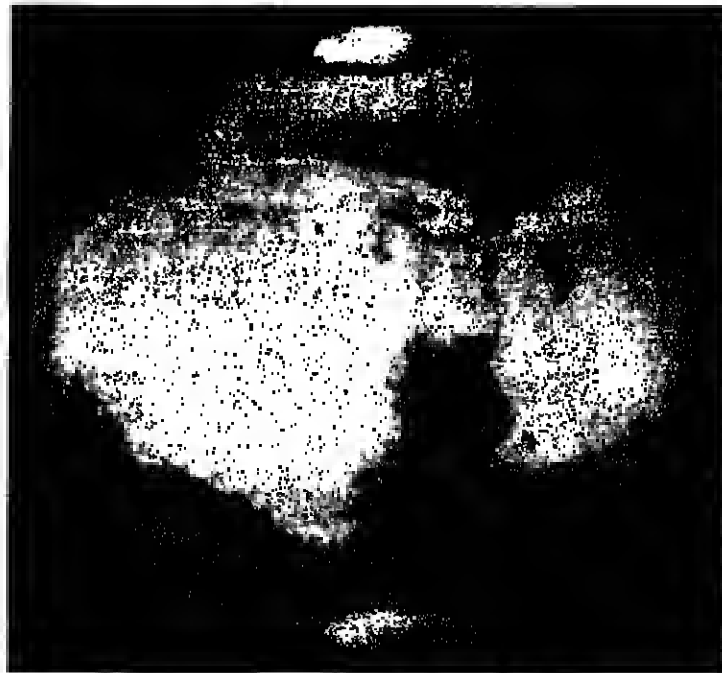
In the opposing camp, however, things look very different. "The weight of evidence has been against McKay's interpretation of ALH84001. Many different lines of research are saying they are wrong," said Ed Scott, a planetary scientist from the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology. Scott seems far from alone in his views. "If you were to take a vote on the possibility of life-forms in the meteorite," said Professor Jeffrey Bada, a leading expert on extra-terrestrial chemistry at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, in La Jolla, California. "It would be overwhelmingly on the negative side. Everything I have seen points to problems with the original work."

It is almost impossible to docu-



David McKay with the supposed meteorite evidence of life on Mars (below), happily orbiting, dead to all the controversy

Dr McKay said this week the critics have been unable to undermine the contention that the potato-sized lump of rock bears the signature of extra-terrestrial life on the planet



THE STORY OF ALH84001

THE METEORITE was the first to be found in the Allan Hills area of Antarctica in 1984 – which accounts for its code name. It weighs 4.2 pounds and is estimated to be 4.5 billion years old. About 16 million years ago a huge comet struck Mars and ejected the rock into space, where it floated for millions of years. It eventually fell to Earth about 13,000 years ago where it rested on an ice sheet until its discovery in 1984. It is now the most studied lump of rock in history.

ment every claim and counterclaim made about the Martian meteorite over the past two years. Each piece of the original argument put forward by McKay's team has been exhaustively scrutinised. From the very start McKay had emphasised that each piece of evidence on its own does not amount to very much,

but taken together, the picture of Martian life emerges convincingly from the jigsaw puzzle.

But even this logic has been criticised. "After all, if A, B, C and D are not conclusive evidence for life, why would A plus B plus C plus D equal life?" says Professor Bada. McKay and his team highlighted

several key findings in support of the existence of fossilised microbes on the ALH84001 meteorite. They said they had found tiny globules of carbonate chemicals, which could have been deposited by living organisms. They also discovered organic compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in

the vicinity of the carbonate deposits, which again indicated a biological origin. McKay also reported finding tiny crystals of a substance called magnetite, which looked surprisingly similar in shape and size to magnetite crystals created by terrestrial bacteria.

But it was the fourth line of

evidence that generated the greatest stir. The Nasa team showed highly magnified images of rod-shaped structures, some with recognisable segments. Could these be the Martian lifeforms themselves? One problem was that they were extremely small and some eminent microbiologists said they were just not big enough to hold the basic biological machinery necessary for life. Other scientists said they were effectively an optical illusion and had nothing to do with biology.

The other bits of the jigsaw were also attacked. Ed Scott says the carbonates could only have been formed under very high temperatures – too high to have a biological origin. Jeffrey Bada said the PAHs had resulted from terrestrial contamination rather than coming from Mars, and John Kerridge, a chemist at the University of California, San Diego, dismissed the magnetite evidence because these crystals are so ubiquitous that they were almost certainly not deposited by living organisms.

Each line of criticism has itself generated its own criticism with the result that all but a few have been able to follow the arcane nature of the dispute. Dozens if not hundreds of research papers have been published detailing every turn in the debate with each claim followed by a riposte. Yet the Nasa and Stanford scientists have held their ground. The rock ALH84001, they insist, bears the best evidence to date that there is, or once was, extra-terrestrial life.

Debates between the two opposing camps have taken place at several scientific conferences this summer with little or no consensus being reached. "Unfortunately this has polarised the scientific community and this is not good for the public perception of the life on Mars debate. The original authors have gone out of their way to criticise their critics instead of producing other new evidence to back up their claims," Professor Bada says. "I feel the sides are moving further apart rather than trying to resolve the issue. They simply have to start considering that their original claims were very inconclusive."

Richard Zare, professor of natural science at Stanford University and a member of the McKay team, said the original arguments for life on Mars were only a hypothesis. "This hypothesis remains unproved and untested," he said. If there has been any public misunderstanding then the news media, rather than the scientists, are to blame. "At first, the news media were probably too believing in our hypothesis. Many ignored the caveats that we voiced repeatedly. In the last few months, the pendulum has swung and the coverage has become overly sceptical. If the public is confused, the news media are more responsible for that confusion than the scientists who are trying to understand this question," Professor Zare said.

Nevertheless, it is probably fair to say that there are now more sceptics about the ALH84001 question among the scientific community than there were two years ago. The McKay group has promised fresh research in the coming months to bolster their increasingly isolated position. Until they do, the conclusion of many scientists will be that, although they accept the possibility of life on Mars, the ALH84001 meteorite has failed to answer the key question – are we alone in the universe?

UPDATE

WOMEN RESPOND to pornographic films in a similar way to men, according to a study that casts doubt on the commonly held view that sexual arousal in males and females depends on different physical signals. Astrid Jutte, at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Urban Ethology in Vienna, asked 10 men and 10 women to watch a 15-minute pornographic film and found there was a significant increase in testosterone levels in both males and females. The average increase for men was 100 per cent and for women 80 per cent, reports *New Scientist* magazine. Other studies have shown that the more testosterone a woman produces in her monthly cycle, the more sexually active she tends to be, but little is known about short-term increases. "Maybe it changes her motivation for sex," Dr Jutte said.

BEES USUALLY come to mind when it comes to pollinating flowers, but scientists in South Africa have found an unusual relationship between a member of the milkweed family of plants and the lesser double-collared sunbird, *Nectarinia chalybea*. Although many plants are pollinated by birds, the mechanism tends to rely simply on pollen getting stuck to the feathers as the birds feed on the nectar. But in the case of the milkweed plant, *Microlophos sagittatus*, the pollen is precisely clipped on to the ends of the bird's tongue. According to research published in the journal *Nature*, by Anton Faure of the University of Cape Town, the plant's tightly closed flowers are finely adapted to make it difficult for insects to sip nectar, but provide welcome access for the sharp beaks of the birds.

SCIENTISTS HAVE launched a campaign to save some viruses, bacteria and fungi that risk being eliminated without people realising how important they can be to a balanced ecosystem. Though these microbes can cause disease in plants and animals, the microbiologists attending the seventh International Congress on Plant Pathology want them to be treated with the same respect as rare animals and plants. David Ingram, president of the British Society for Plant Pathology and Regius Keeper for the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, is spearheading the campaign to "preserve the pathogen". He says: "For every plant that becomes extinct, 30 other species go with it, and many of these will be plant pathogens. With the rapid loss of habitats and ecosystems world-wide, the increased use of fungicides, pesticides and herbicides in agriculture, and the release of genetically modified organisms, the threats to pathogen diversity in the wild are immense."

STEVE CONNOR

THE TRUTH ABOUT... HYPOTHERMIA

HOW DID he survive? That was the question many people asked following the news earlier this week that 13-month-old Liam Evans had spent three nights alone, without food and water, on a Welsh hillside. His grandfather had taken him for a car drive, but died after a crash on the Thursday night, which left the car invisible from the road. Liam was discovered when a boy heard his cries on Sunday morning. In between, nobody, including Liam himself, knew where he was.

One early suggestion for his remarkable survival was that his body, unable to generate enough warmth, had shut itself down in order to conserve energy. Such hypothermia – a fall in the temperature of the body's core, normally 37°C (98.6°F) – does lead to a remarkable reduction in energy needs. In fact, our core temperature falls a little when we go to sleep at night. But this is not usually the prelude to hypothermia.

Clinically, that condition begins when the core temperature falls to 35°C. The

associated changes are surprising. "The heart beats more slowly, at less than half of its normal rate," explains Ken Collins, a retired hospital doctor who is acknowledged as an expert on hypothermia. "The breathing rate slows, too; if you see a true hypothermic, you can hardly tell that they're breathing at all."

Thus, people who appear dead on arrival at hospital after being in freezing conditions can, with the right means of revival (to raise the core temperature before the skin temperature), turn out to be perfectly healthy. Emergency physicians have a saying to sum up this fact: "They're not dead until they're warm and dead."

In true hypothermia, everything slows down, including the activity of the tissues and brain. The lowest ever recorded core temperature in a survivor is 15.3°C, in a 23-day-old infant.

But while hypothermia can in fact help survival, it is dangerous, and scores of people die from it every year. Dr Collins says: "Below 35°C there

are great risks because it's a more likely that the heart will slow down so much that it stops, or goes into fibrillation (irregular contractions). Then you can have ventricular fibrillation, which can kill."

Nobody knows exactly what combination of outside temperatures and internal body energy stores is required to trigger hypothermia. But the evidence suggests that Liam did not become hypothermic. It is summer, and the temperature drop at night, though substantial, was probably not enough to induce hypothermia.

One persuasive argument for this is that Liam's rescuer was alerted by the baby's cries. "If he had been in deep hypothermia, he wouldn't have been conscious, and couldn't cry," says Dr Collins. "I think he was a reasonably healthy child, which meant he had a margin of about four days. That's how long they can last without food or water." On that basis, Liam was rescued just 24 hours from death.

CHARLES ARTHUR



Liam Evans with his mother after his three-night ordeal

TECHNOQUEST

Q When a bulb blows, why does the fuse sometimes blow too?
When a filament in a light bulb blows, the bulb can arc (a spark jumps from one side to the other). The lamp then becomes a discharge lamp. The discharge has little resistance (since the bulb has very little gas in it) and this draws a lot of current, blowing the fuse. This effect can be prevented by putting nitrogen in the bulb.

Q What are male and female emus called?
The male emu is the "rooster", the female is the "hen". Just-hatched babies are "chicks", 10-to-15-month-olds are "yearlings", and 16-to-23-month-olds are "coming twos".

Q What is the life cycle of the crab louse?
The female crab carries eggs under her abdomen, which resemble bunches of grapes, and are a bright orange colour when first laid. This colour then gets darker, and sometimes the eye-spots of the larva can be seen through the egg case. The larvae hatch as zoea, which look like tiny commas and can swim. After a number of moults, the zoea develop into a megalop stage, which has legs and claws, but its tail is still visible. A small appendage on the tail

can help the megalop to swim. The megalop moults and changes into a small crab and the tail, instead of protruding, is now tucked under the body of the crab.

Q Do other mammals – especially primates – have monozygotic (identical) twins?
Yes, basically. For example, the nine-ringed armadillo, roe deer and coypu all have monozygotic twins.

Q How much does the cortex of the human brain weigh?
The cortex has been estimated to contain about 15 billion to 25 billion nerve cells. That is about a quarter of all the cells in the brain. But these estimates are notoriously unreliable. We do know it is about 3 millimetres thick. So if about half the brain weight is nerve cells and the rest is fibres, and if one-quarter of the cells are in the cortex, it ought to be about one-eighth of the weight of the brain. That would make it about 150-200 grams – let's say about 6 ounces.

You can visit the technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.science.net.org.uk>

Questions and answers are provided by Science Line's Dial-a-Scientist on 0345 600444

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Edinburgh Evening News, 21 August 1998

Friday 21 August 1998

ARTS/11

Now for something completely lemur

John Cleese is off to the rainforest to find something furrer and more elusive than pythons. By James Rampton

JOHN CLEESE was hired to Madagascar by the fact that "it's one of the few places on earth that Michael Palin hasn't visited." He was also attracted by the presence there of five black-and-white ruffed lemurs that had been released into the wild after being bred in captivity. The results of his trip have been recorded for *Born to Be Wild*, to be shown on BBC1 on Sunday.

Oh no, I hear you groan, just what the world needs, another one of those TV marriages made in ratings heaven: celeb meets cute wildlife in exotic location, and everybody (especially the commissioning editor) lives happily ever after.

This one, it has to be said, is enlivened by Cleese's sense of the absurd. Having trawled the exhaustingly humid rainforest for 12 hours in a vain search for his beloved lemurs, he stops the cameraman: "Look, through the fork there. It's David Attenborough. Says he's got some great footage of black-and-white ruffed lemurs. Let's steal it."

In recent times, we have seen too little of this trademark Cleese humour, and people have speculated whether years of therapy have blunted his comic edge. His last film, *Fierce Creatures*, was certainly fiercely savaged. One critic railed that it was "as terrible as movies get." Another succinctly dubbed it "a stinker."

To his credit, Cleese seems sanguine at the memory of these critical daggers between his shoulder-blades. "There was a certain amount of negativity but you always get that sort of reaction to someone who has had a big success. You don't take it personally, because you don't have to look too far to see that it happens all the time. I've learnt from watching soap operas that you can't have moments of stasis; you have to keep the plot moving. After a hit, it's more interesting if you fail - it's a better story."

"It's all manufactured, and the wonderful thing is, it doesn't matter very much. It would if my life revolved around work, but I see it as absolutely subsidiary. My aim in life is to get away with doing as little as I can. You think I'm joking, but the minute the winter sets in here, I'm going back to Santa Barbara to read 30 books in the sun. I've always thought that work was overrated in our culture. Most 18th-century gentlemen would have been appalled by the idea that the fulfilment of life is work. That's a totally modern notion. It's the same with people who think that money makes you happy - it's demonstrably untrue."

With his existing CV, the 50-year-old Cleese scarcely needs to work to seal his reputation. The man behind one of our best films (*A Fish Called Wanda*), best sketch shows (*Monty Python's Flying Circus*), and best sitcoms (*Fawlty Towers*) is assured of legendary status long before the obitu-



John Cleese is baffled that 'people are so fond of Basil. They shouldn't be - he's horrible'

arists set to work. All the same, he claims to be incapable of sitting through the repeats of *Fawlty Towers* that are currently winning a whole new generation of fans on BBC1. "It can be a distressing experience. The last time I watched the Germans episode, I saw three bits of comic business so awful that I cringed - particularly that bit where the fire extinguisher goes off in my face. It was appallingly badly done."

But Cleese recognises that other people are delighted to watch the series time and time again. He ascribes this to the fact that it boasted "good character studies. Basil, for instance, is the archetypal lower-middle-

class type. He doesn't know how to handle his emotions, which just makes him cross and depressed."

What baffles Cleese, however, is the fact that "people are so fond of Basil. They shouldn't be - he's horrible. It's like WC Fields. If someone makes you laugh, you forget that it would be appalling to be next to them. Everybody likes to laugh like someone giving you a nice plate of food - you can hardly hate them then."

According to Cleese, the other reason why *Fawlty Towers* has endured so long is that "the plots are quite complex. Even the best comedy now revolves around two people on a sofa and one in an armchair. In

Fawlty Towers, the characters are always interacting. When one is trying to achieve something and the other is hindering and manipulating and telling lies, the sheer complexity of it is enjoyable."

And, boy, did he and his co-writer, his then wife Connie Booth, work on that complexity. "We spent an enormous amount of time writing the series. We took six weeks to write every episode. George Bernard Shaw said art is 99 per cent perspiration and 1 per cent inspiration. Now writers don't have that time; they've got to write the episode by Tuesday. The average sitcom script is 66 pages long; a *Fawlty Towers* script had 135 pages. Each episode con-

tained 400 cuts, instead of the usual 200. We were cramming twice as much in, which meant we could pile on the absurdities. If you can hit audiences five or six times in a row, you get on a roll."

Not that everybody got it. There have been several non-too-successful American attempts to remake the sitcom. One US network executive admitted: "We had terrible problems with the show until we finally figured out what was wrong. We got rid of that guy Ray-zil." It is reported that one producer even suggested making a stage musical out of *Fawlty Towers*, an idea that makes "Springtime for Hitler" from *The Producers* seem reasonable.

Finishing the series after just 12 episodes has guaranteed its immortality, but Cleese puts the decision down to a low boredom threshold rather than a stroke of genius. "Unless the bank manager is breathing down your neck, when you begin to lose interest you should move on. Things are often exciting at the start, but sustaining them is difficult." He has never felt tempted to make another sitcom. "That wouldn't be a very smart move. Everyone would say 'it's quite good, but not as good as *Fawlty Towers*'."

Those fears have not stopped him talking about a *Monty Python* reunion tour next year, though. "It's a thing for the fans," he explains. "Nobody's going to go who isn't a fan, and if they do, they're fools." The nightmarish vision of 10,000 Pythonophiles incanting the Parrot Sketch in unison heaves into the mind's eye. "If we do it next year, that would be the 30th anniversary of *Python*," he continues. "That would be a nice closure, as the Americans say. We'd be telling the fans, go on enjoying the tapes, but we're off."

Just why is it that three decades after it first went out, *Python* continues to command this slavishly dedicated cult following? "It was just one of those things where a group of people got together and all hit a purple patch of the same time," Cleese reckons. "At that time television was very stuffy, and we were able to make fun of the conventions. You can't do it any more because they've all been destroyed. I used to say it was like opening a gate on to a field that no one has been into before; there were all those lovely flowers to pick."

Critics have talked of "a hectoring, intimidating tone" in some of his work, but in person Cleese is much more poodle than Rottweiler. All those decades on the couch have perhaps encouraged a Californian "hang ten" approach to life. "Making television now seems like being Steve Davis; you may have remarkable skills, but what is the point of demonstrating them if you don't need the money? If instead you sat in the garden sketching, you'd get more out of that. Any day when I feel I've learnt something new seems profitable. I'm very happy with my life - even though there are not enough lemons in it."

Cleese expresses one other regret: that he was too busy to execute one of the world's most elaborate gags. "When Michael Palin was making *Around the World in 80 Days*, I had this plan to fly to Indonesia secretly and just walk past him. I would have done a double-take and he would have been astonished. Then I was going to say to him, 'what are you doing here? I'm making a programme called *Around the World in 79 Days*'."

'Born to be Wild' is on BBC1 at 8pm on Sunday, 26 August

The voice of a thousand

THE NEW "Choral Day" at the Proms is an innovation of Nicholas Kenyon, the Proms' current "controller" (they have some sinister titles at the BBC). And a happy inspiration it turns out to be. The vigour of musical life depends on the involvement of amateurs - people who do not know much about music before they first pick up an instrument in class or attend a choral rehearsal, but who in time form the orchestras, choirs and audiences that will sustain music as a living entity.

Seven hours of attention, evenly split over two Proms, is a lot to ask of any listener, so that the pacing of the event becomes vital: here, variety was obtained through the careful juxtaposition of contrasting styles of music - and contrasting choirs, seven in a row between 2.30pm and 7pm, and 15 all at once at 8pm for Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

The most consistently satisfying performances were given by Peter Broadbent's Joyful Company of Singers, who have been cleaning up choral prizes for a few years now. They began the afternoon, in tandem

PROMS CHORAL DAY ALBERT HALL

with another choir, Ex Cathedra, in a performance of that touchstone of the repertoire, Tallis's 40-part *Spem in alium*, soaring from initial hesitation into a thrilling tapestry of sound. *Spem* was not written for a building like the Albert Hall, of course: it needs a long, tall shape down which it can reverberate, not a huge space into which it disappears.

That problem affected other performances, some of them carefully considered, like those of the Choir of New College, Oxford, singing Taverner's *Tallis*, Stanford, Bruckner and Frank Martin under their director, Edward Higginbottom; they did not have quite the impact they deserved. Even the tougher textures of David Matthews's *Vespers*, extracts from which were given their London premiere by the Huddersfield Choral Society under Martyn Brabbins, had their problems: the organ's flowing contrapuntal accompaniment tended to drown the

finer details of Matthews' vocal lines.

Still, there were some unqualified successes. The Joyful Company excelled themselves in Jonathan Harvey's *Forms of Emptiness*, which sets three poems by ee cummings, and texts, in dropped Sanskrit and spoken English, from the Buddhist "Heart Sutra". The chorus is divided into three groups, each moving to a separate pulse - and it is surprisingly direct music from a composer with a reputation for intellectualism.

It was the interlopers in this feast of Vaughan Williams, Poulenc, Grainger, Charpentier, Monteverdi, Judith Weir and similar serious stuff, who pulled the biggest cheer from the crowd: the barbershop group, Shannon Express. There was some glorious hazzing here: 40 green-blazered lads of all ages, swaying with the music and belting out showstoppers with absolutely precise intonation and crystal-clear diction that had a thing or two to teach their more earnest colleagues.

The evening's concert demonstrated the catholicity of

our times: only the previous Sunday, in the annual Proms lecture (another Kenyon innovation), George Steiner had condemned *Carmina Burana* as unequivocally Fascist music. That did not trouble the capacity audience, crowded into its half of the Albert Hall by the thousand singers who filled the stage and choir stands and spilled into the stalls - the largest number of performers ever to take part in a Prom. It was some sight, too: when Terry Edwards, the conductor, first brought them to their feet, the audience responded with a unison gasp. The small space left on stage was occupied by four pianos, ringed around by percussion, for a version of Orff's celebration of medieval bawdiness boiled down from the orchestral score in 1956.

Unsurprisingly, there were a few problems of ensemble (chiefly a tendency to land on the note first and then adjust the dynamic), though Edwards handled this huge mass of sound with easy confidence. He was rewarded with the kind of roar in France at the end of the World Cup.

MARTIN ANDERSON

WORK IN PROGRESS

JOHN HEGLEY, PERFORMANCE POET

John Hegley makes his 15th appearance at the Edinburgh Festival this year. Here, he talks about the eight show series he is recording for Radio 4.



Unusually for Radio 4, they asked for a larger musical input into this year's series so there will be a couple more songs in each show. Some of them are me playing the guitar with Nigel, then there are some with an ensemble which includes a couple of the Popicians and the Oxymorons. There are only two members of the Oxymorons left, so I introduce one as "Oxy" and the other as "Moron". There's a new song about Jimmy Hill. He has a beautiful name to rhyme with it.

goes like this: "It used to be his distinctive beard. This is what they criticised it used to be a distinctive beard. Then he shaved. But he can't win

People crave a doll to pin. They have to have a whipping boy. A ship ahoy to rob of joy. But Jim won't let them win. Destroy his fervour. He will never let them in. He can take it, Jimmy Hill. Can take it on the chin. They send him off to Coventry. They say he interrupts. But sometimes you can't compromise. What otherwise corrupts... You could say it's tongue in cheek but it's not scathing at all, it's loving. I have nothing but love for Jimmy Hill. I'll also be talking about aeroplanes - paper aeroplanes, balsa wood aeroplanes. A load of potatoes. We'll have some potato sculp-

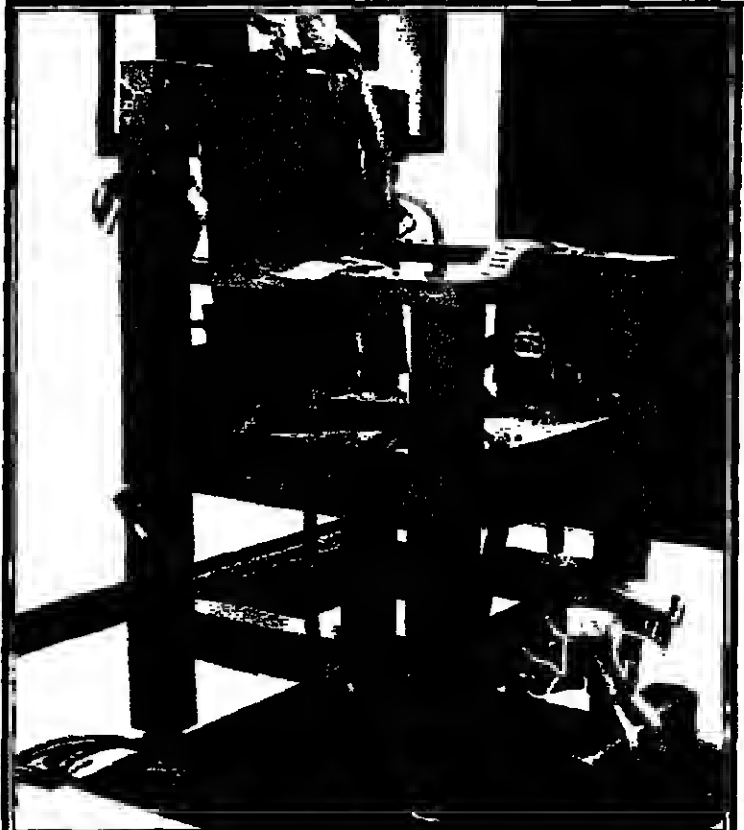
tures at the live shows. It's a very underestimated plant with very beautiful flowers, purple and delicate. It goes through various stages, and there's the bird-like state, for instance, when it's vegetating. It's quite remarkable. Mmm, I like spuds.

We'll be doing something with cabbages too. I can throw the vegetables at the audience if they're no good. Luton will definitely be there, too. Something about hats, the hats of Luton Town, where lots of hats used to be made. Luton are the "Hatters", you know.

John Hegley's show is at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh 27-29 August

INTERVIEW BY NICHOLAS FEARN

THIS WEEK IN THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



Killing for a living

Leading psychiatrist Dorothy Otnow Lewis meets 'Bob Smith' a US state executioner who has pulled the switch on the electric chair 19 times

Plus: get two tickets for the price of one for 'The Avengers'

Carving a new niche for itself

Liberty's modern furniture gallery has been revived, and this time it has an eye on the future as well as the past. By Charlotte Packer

After a five-year hiatus, Liberty has re-opened its modern furniture gallery and is once again commissioning designers to produce furniture under its own label. What is surprising is the fact the department was closed in the first place.

Soon after opening in 1875, Liberty established itself as the most fashionable and influential shop in London: the Arts & Crafts style furniture which it produced was snapped up by both private buyers and museums around the world. This century it has enjoyed a reputation for being one of the capital's best showcases for new design. Selling exhibitions were staged regularly throughout the 1970s and 1980s, some curated by artists and designers, others tied-in with major exhibitions, such as "Memphis meets Liberty", which featured the entire contents of the V&A's show dedicated to Memphis, the Italian design group; every item was sold within days of arrival in store.

Despite this long and largely happy association with contemporary furniture design, the department hit trouble in the early 1990s, and not even the decision to reinstate own-label collections, which had ceased production 80 years earlier, could revive it. In 1993, after just three new collections, the department closed. It had begun to alienate rather than excite people, and the recession further hampered its fortunes.

Sophie Holloway, Liberty's new modern furniture buyer, is the woman charged with making the department pay its way, and she is confident it can hold its own once more. "Attitudes towards design have changed in the last five years, and contemporary design now has a broader appeal," she says, pointing to the proliferation of interiors magazines and TV programmes as proof.

To celebrate the opening of the new furniture galleries, a selection of prototypes for Liberty's next furniture collection, Liberty IV, designed by Christopher Healey, are currently on display. Although Healey, who studied cabinet-making at Parnham House in Dorset, had been producing pieces for Liberty ever since he wandered into the store with a backpack full of candlesticks five years ago, he had never before undertaken a commission of this scale. The brief was to create timeless pieces which are "modern and classic, sensual and reflective of [Liberty's] history".

The collection, which comprises a sideboard, dining table, chairs, cabinets and a desk, all of which will be made to order from September, is extremely beautiful, but it does not at first appear particularly modern. Rather the pieces echo the look and feel of the furniture produced by

Liberty throughout the 1890s when the fashion for Arts & Crafts was at its peak. This is intentional and the result of a clever piece of commissioning. Healey's fascination with archaeology, organic form and occult ideas, evident in his early work, made him a natural candidate for the Liberty IV project. Although these influences are now more subtly expressed in his work, there is a clear link to the two aesthetics with which Liberty is closely associated: Art Nouveau and Arts & Crafts.

Already, Liberty IV has attracted considerable attention, and "been picked up on by people who have come to Liberty for antiques; it has also appealed to customers who

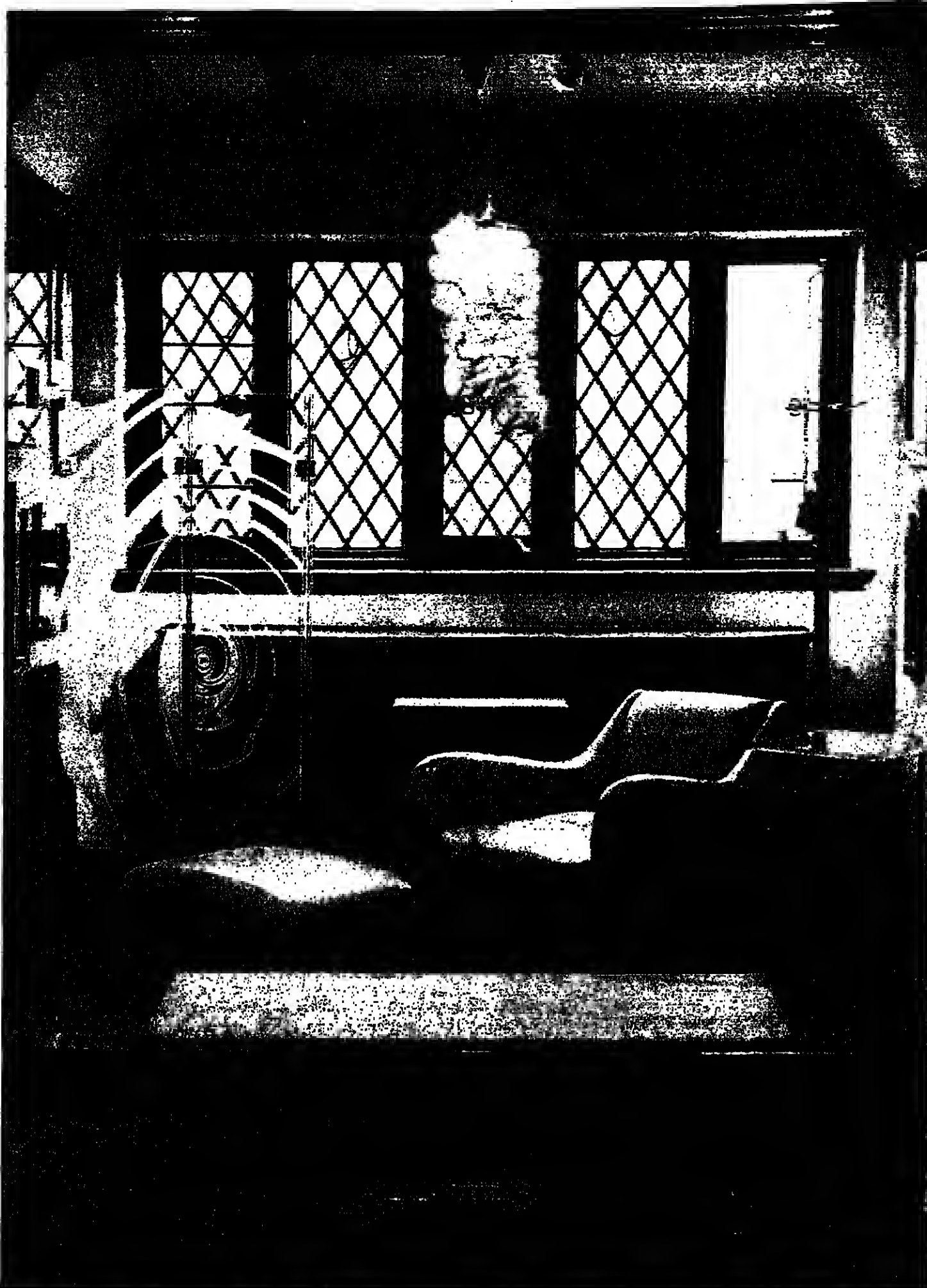
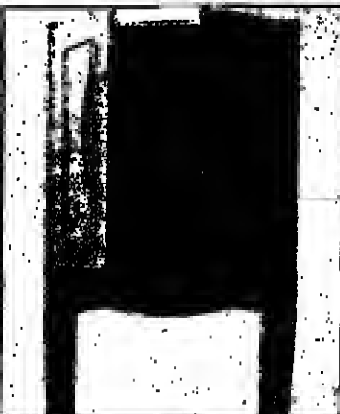
she knows that Liberty is not their only source. "The connoisseur already knows where to find these designers - the Milan furniture fair, Viaduct and so on. This gallery is about selling excellent modern furniture to the widest possible clientele, which means hiring customers in with things they will find familiar."

If Holloway sounds as though she is pandering to the limited tastes of the masses, she is not too concerned: her aim is to make the department financially viable as well as being serious about modern design. She not only wants to attract customers who wouldn't normally be interested in modern furniture, she needs to as well. To this end, she has written up mini biographies of all the designers represented. "I give as much information as I can so that customers can familiarise themselves with what they are looking at and who it is by." This slightly didactic approach has also informed her selection of furniture. "I'm not sure it's so important to concentrate solely on the new and never-been-seen. Take Matthew Hilton's Balzac chair in leather for example: it may be well known, but it's not to be missed. Neither is the chaise longue by Le Corbusier or Eileen Grey's side tables. They are functional, beautiful pieces, they have an important place in 20th-century design, and I think our customers are excited to see them here."

Holloway's approach to contemporary design is refreshingly pragmatic. "I look for pieces which are versatile, and this often comes down to the materials a designer has chosen to use," she says, and cites a wenge wood writing desk by Antonio Citterio as an example, because the design is both modern and timeless: the dark, satin-smooth wood perfectly complements the strong, simple contours, and although clearly contemporary it would work as well in the sitting room of an Edwardian semi as in a state-of-the-art penthouse. Matthew Hilton's choice of Bute Three upholstery for his Orwell sofa, and the soft, durable leather with which he has covered his Balzac armchair, is another case in point. "Finding a plain fabric with a good texture that complements the shape of a piece is hard. Many people associate 'modern' furniture with strong flat colours and hard lines. I want people to feel that these pieces will work, and that they can be added to an already established home."

Holloway's approach is already paying off. Where once customers would loiter by the entrance before turning away, there is now a steady stream of visitors working their way through the gallery, stopping here and there to stroke a leather arm or read a biography. And better still, the furniture is selling.

Liberty is at 214 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234)



Main picture: Matthew Hilton's Balzac chair; and Christopher Healey's table in the new furniture galleries at Liberty; inset left, oak chair (1998) and oak cabinet (1998) by Christopher Healey, for the Liberty IV collection. Main photograph: Adrian Dennis

THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NOS 8 & 9: THE SYLVAN CORPORATION ANTI-ASTHMATIC PILLOW AND PERTEX FIBRE

So far, more than 200 Millennium objects have been chosen for excellent design. This week we examine two associated products which together might eradicate the problem of dust mites, believed to be responsible for the allergens which aggravate asthma.

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS suffered by an asthmatic friend set John Walker a problem: how to design a pillow that would banish the dust mites that are believed to aggravate the condition, but retain the comfort associated with the best duck feathers.

His first attempt was a failure. Using a breathable material that lets vapour out but keeps air in, he created a sealed pillowcase to cover the pillow. But when he tried to rest his head on it, his head bounced off, because the pillowcase did not let air out, it was like an inflated balloon.

To overcome this problem, he created a new version with internal air sacs built into the covering. When the sleeper's head touches the pillow, instead of bouncing off it displaces air into the air sacs at the sides, and promises a dust-mite-free night.

The pillow is made by the Sylvan Corporation, which Walker runs in Manchester, and business has been brisk since it went on sale earlier this year. Now it has won a place in the Millennium Dome exhibition of 200 products for the year 2000. It will be featured alongside a fabric normally used to make weatherproof outdoor wear which has been adapted for use by asthmatics. Pertex is made from continuous-filament polyamide fibres that are finer



than human hair. They are densely woven, so they prevent penetration of the dust mites, and can be used as protective sheets covering mattresses.

The fineness of the weave means that Pertex, made by Perseverance Mills, Lancashire, provides a natural barrier against the mites without the need for additional chemicals - which can themselves trigger an allergic reaction.

Around 2 million house dust mites live in the average mattress, feeding on dust. Their droppings contain allergens that are believed to aggravate asthma, but there is uncertainty about whether reducing the mites eases the symptoms.

A spokesman for the National Asthma Campaign says: "There is a shortage of medical research to show whether reducing dust mites really helps. We

recommend sufferers to try different materials, synthetic and natural, to see what works for them."

The Sylvan Corporation (01706 712925); Perseverance Mills (01282 778711). Marks & Spencer sells Pertex duvets (£100-£150), mattress-protectors (£19-£95) and pillows (£37 for two).

JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH EDITOR

TOMORROW'S WORLD

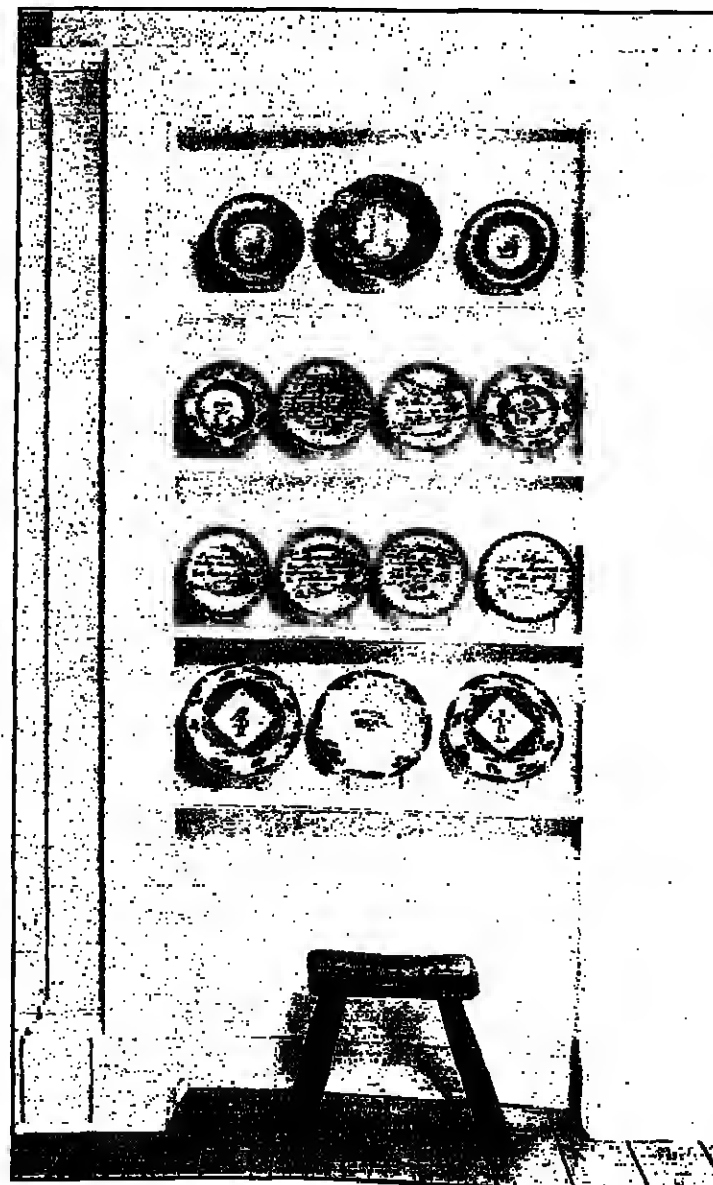
DESIGN AT THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

WITTY CERAMICS by the South African Hyton Nel (pictured on display in cabinet, right) and elegant pieces by the British potters Rupert Spira and Julian Stair star in the opening show of a new Edinburgh arts venue, Ingleby Gallery. Set up this summer by Richard and Florence Ingleby, it specialises in 20th-century British artists.

During the Festival, its walls are aglow with etchings and lithographs by Howard Hodgkin (until 12 September). Future treats include totemic tapering sculpture by Craig Murray-Orr (30th September to 31 October) and Andy Goldsworthy's dazzling nature art (from 11 November to 19 December).

The Ingleby Gallery, 6 Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh (0131-556 4441), Wed-Sat 10am-6pm, at other times by arrangement.

THERE ARE two more days to "Meet Your Maker" at Artisan, Edinburgh's contemporary crafts festival. Events include "Furniture Design & Making" by Ben Dawson (today, 5pm-6pm), "Figurative Ceramics" by Brendan Hesmondhalgh (Sat 22 August, 2pm-3pm) and "Constructing a Guitar" by Dallas Sutherland (Sat 22 August, 3.30pm-4.30pm). Artisan (0131-225 2059) is on until Sunday 23 August at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Morrison Street, Edinburgh.



JP 11/10/98

A small, unelected quango wields ultimate power over Britain's architectural planning. James Fisher examines its record

The country's architectural enforcer

Every three weeks a distinguished group of architects, historians, property developers and artists gathers in London's St James's Square to discuss the merits, or otherwise, of prominent architectural proposals. Presided over by Lord St John of Fawley, this is not another Establishment drinking club; it is the only official body with the right to comment on the nation's architecture.

In a country which generally pays scant regard to architecture, it probably comes as no surprise that there is only one organisation dedicated to enhancing design in the environment. Even less surprising is that the body's grand name, the Royal Fine Art Commission, makes no reference to the subject.

But all that could be about to change. Buried deep within the Culture Secretary Chris Smith's consultation paper on the arts, with its promise of free entry to museums, was the news of a review of the RFAC's work, remit, even existence. Smith said he wanted to create a new "champion of architecture", and invited comments on four options, ranging from abolition to a revamped and renamed Royal Architecture Commission.

But, given the paper's shyness about the proposals and the lack of general knowledge about the workings of the commission, it seems unlikely that the bureaucrats are going to be inundated with responses.

This seems a shame, given the importance and scope of the commission's work - currently studying plans for a new shopping centre in the heart of historic Bath, the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay, and a cake house in London's St James's Park. And "working on" is the correct phrase. Architects whose plans are being examined have just 20 minutes to present and justify their proposals to a formidable selection of their eminent peers, including the architectural knights Michael Hopkins and Colin Stansfeld Smith. Sometimes they come back several times to the commission's panelled offices for what can be a gruelling experience.

Ten days later, a letter reaches the architect in question, the client and,

occasionally, the local press, with comments and advice. Often penned in colourful prose by Lord St John himself, these letters don't mince words. A recent example of his bombast concerned plans for a commercial development at Knightsbridge Green, opposite Harrods, which the commission described as an "architectural disaster" and a "blot on the landscape".

Getting into his stride, Lord St John continued: "Embedded in conservation areas, this site is part of one of our greatest thoroughfares. Surely London deserves better than this architecturally incoherent building, more suitable to a Midwestern town in the United States than to a prominent shopping and commercial centre in one of the greatest cities of the world."

Architects have 20 minutes to present their plans. They may have to return several times... It can be a gruelling experience

This devastating salvo fired to Kensington & Chelsea Council's planning committee, as it met to decide the development's fate, had the desired effect - the plans were thrown out.

Other timely interventions by the commission include proposals for an office building over the Waterloo International Terminal, which was scrapped, and the Inland Revenue building in Nottingham, where it persuaded the last government to hold a competition to find an architect after seeing the original "banal" proposals.

All good deeds, no doubt. But the charge most commonly laid at the rather forbidding door of the 74-year-old RFAC, which has an annual budget of £700,000 and a staff of eight, is one of cronyism.

Francis Golding, the RFAC secretary, a neat career civil servant in his early fifties, is robust in his defence of the commission: "As regards cronyism, or looking after its own,

you simply cannot make that charge stick. Neither the great and the good, nor architects and commissioners, get away with it."

Three of the last four plans Sir Michael Hopkins has brought here have been roundly condemned. Allies & Morrison have never been supported in my time at the commission, despite Graham Morrison being a commissioner, and Richard Rogers completely redesigned an office in Soho after comments from the commission.

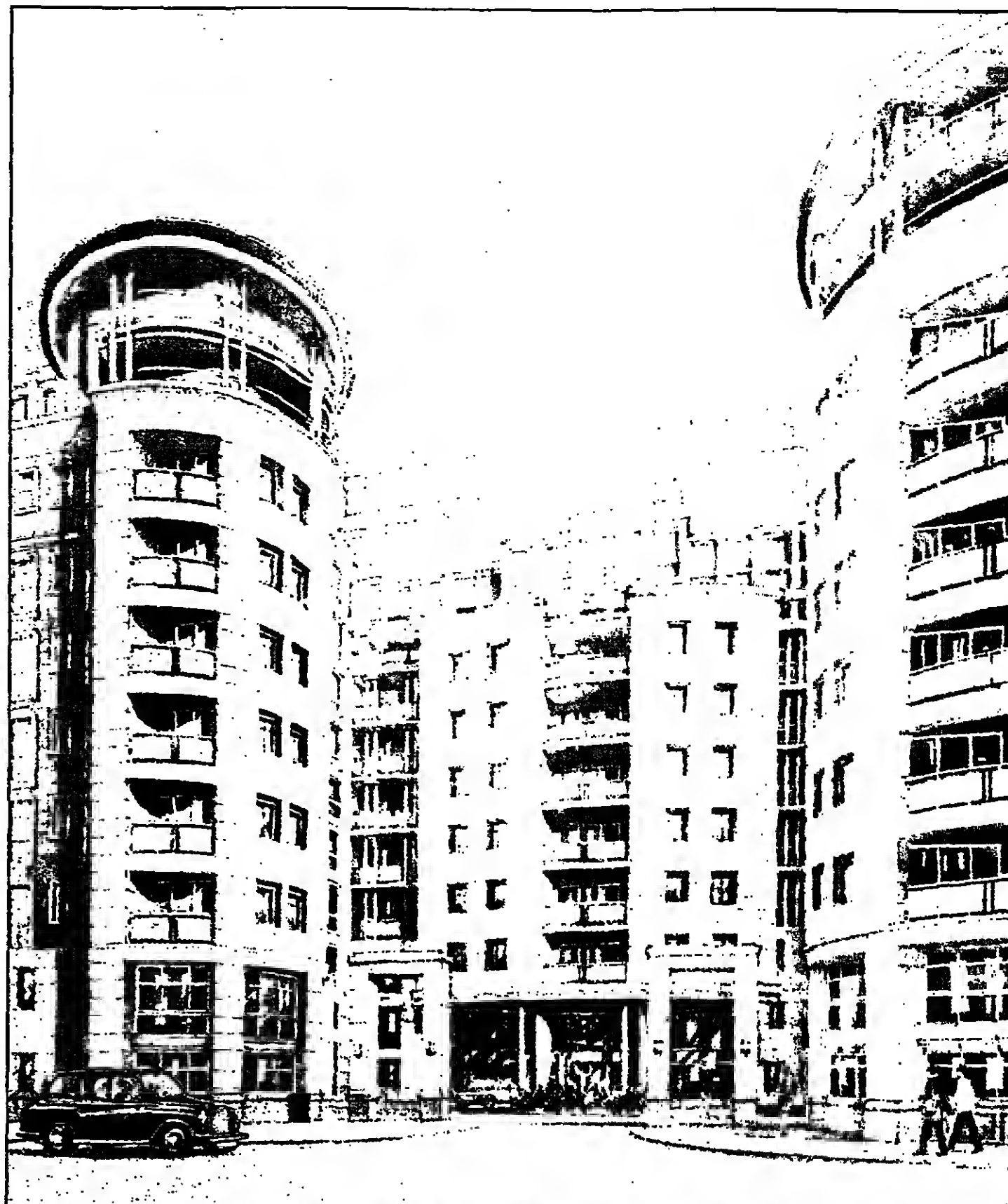
Sitting in his august office beneath a painting by Howard Hodgkin (a friend), Golding also swiftly dismisses the idea that the commission is partial to a particular architectural style - modernism, classicism, post modernism: "The commission works with people to make better design," he says. "There is no house style; no favoured style. Ian Ritchie (a modernist) and Quinlan Terry (a classicist) both get praised to the skies. Buildings have to be appropriate to their place - and that has nothing to do with style and everything to do with quality," he says.

On the subject of Chris Smith's review, Golding and the commission are optimistic. "We can't see that they can come up with anything other than the option we want. It makes no sense to put us in the Arts Council, and I can see no support for the idea of an advisory secretariat within the culture department."

But what do architects, the recipients of advice, criticism and condemnation, think of the RFAC?

Terry Farrell, architect of the M16 building in London, has been visiting the commission for more than 20 years - at one stage of his career he was going monthly - and, most recently, presented a hotel to be built next to the Tower of London.

His experiences have been mixed, and have varied according to the composition of commissioners and the identity of the chairman. "I've sometimes disagreed with the content of the letters, which can be a bit personal and hurtful," he says. "But that is better than other impersonal and faceless bodies, which operate entirely behind closed doors. English Heritage doesn't allow architects to present their schemes. At least the commissioners get to hear about a building from



A proposed development for Knightsbridge Green, described by the RFAC as "an architecturally incoherent disaster" Matt Lacey

the person most involved with it.

"On balance it has been a good thing, although at times I have disagreed with it, and been impatient and frustrated by its comments. But the commission is supportive of good architecture, and there is no other politics there, other than architecture and urban design."

Others in the profession give a similar two cheers for the commission, with praise for its independence, tempered by memories of past slights and barbed criticism of

cherished buildings. Given the nature of the commission, and the fact that they will have to run its gamut in the future, it is not surprising that most are guarded in their comments. The Wales Millennium Centre architect, John Rudge, of Percy Thomas Partnership, is keen to register his "strong views" about the commission, which has been very critical of the project. But he will be making them known confidentially to the Culture Department for fear of upsetting his clients by damaging

relations with the commission: "What I am prepared to say is that while the aims and aspirations of the RFAC are correct, there needs to be a regular review of its procedures to make sure they match up to those aims and aspirations. Also it should be more regional, as Scotland has its own RFAC, there would be merit in having a Welsh RFAC."

Welsh RFAC or not, change is certain as a result of Chris Smith's review, although it is unlikely to be as radical as the commission feared.

While Labour was in opposition, it appeared to be sharpening its knife in readiness for what was widely regarded as an easy target: an undemocratic, elitist, pompously titled quango, run out of stuffy St James's Square by a Tory peer who served as a minister under Mrs Thatcher.

In power, as in other areas, Labour is acting somewhat differently, and is likely to give the RFAC a wider remit and more power. It seems they came to bury Caesar and ending up praising him.

Prodigal son of corporate building returns

Terry Farrell, to many the classic 1980s Post-Modernist, is set to make his mark on the capital again. By James Fisher

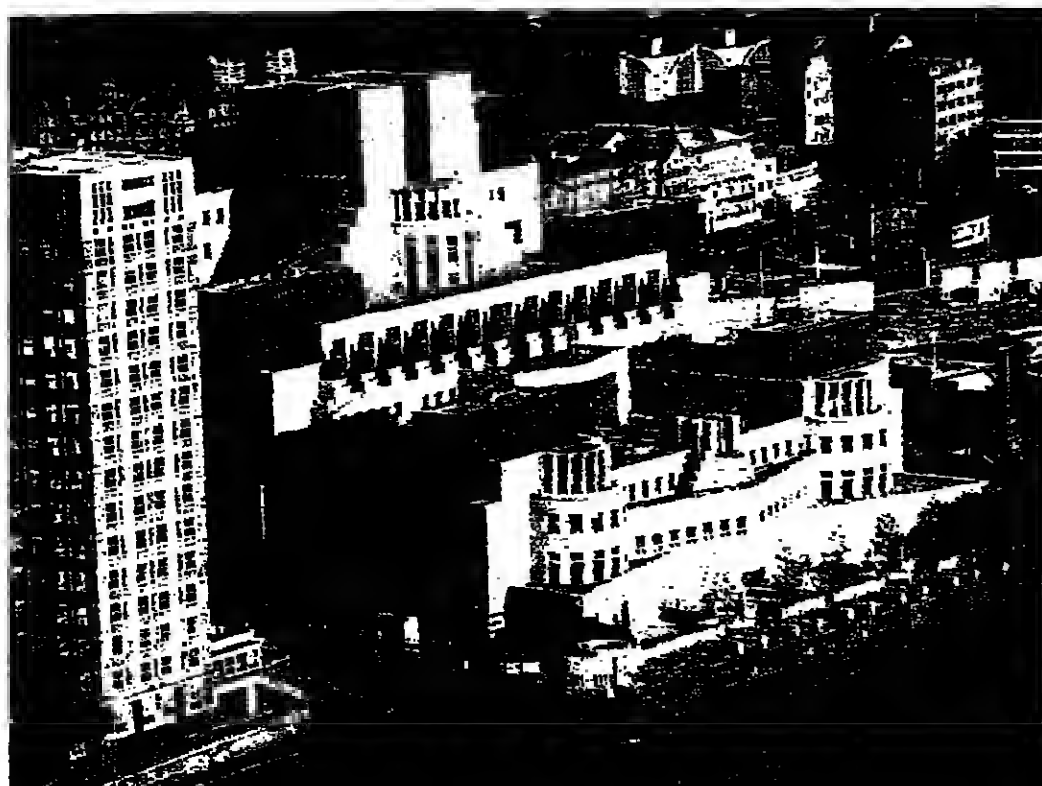
IT HAS been 10 years since Terry Farrell was commissioned to build anything in London, but now he is back with a hotel next to the Tower of London and an office in Canary Wharf which could house the new London Mayor and Assembly.

In the Eighties, Farrell was everywhere - there was the TV-AM building in Camden with its famous twin eggs, a huge development over Charing Cross station, and Alban Gate in the City. Although as prolific as architects such as Sir Norman Foster and Lord Rogers, Farrell never achieved the same critical acclaim or recognition. His Post-modern architecture fitted the Thatcherite era of fast new money, and in some ways defines it, but never rested easily with the architectural establishment.

Farrell's decade culminated in the controversial M16 building in Vauxhall, a Government commission and apparent sign of acceptance into the upper echelons of the profession. But then the commissions dried up. Farrell, it seemed, was yesterday's man, his work so closely identified with the excesses of the Eighties that it was no longer in demand.

"At the time, one critic said to me, 'In London, Terry, you've had your turn. I thought I might have to emigrate,'" he recalls. As events unfolded, he did not emigrate, but his work did.

Commissions started to roll in from the Far East, where his architectural style found more favour. In Hong Kong there is a visitor attraction on the Peak



With his M16 building at Vauxhall Cross, Terry Farrell seemed to have won establishment recognition. After a hiatus, he is back in London Andrew Pullen/Terry Farrell & Partners

and a massive transport interchange in Kowloon, while in Seoul, Farrell is building a new airport in readiness for the 2002 World Cup. There was some UK work, notably in York, Edinburgh and Newcastle, but a London appointment continued to elude him until Scottish Widows asked

him to design a £30m hotel for the sensitive Three Quays site next to the Tower of London. After a year-long gestation, the 234-room hotel won planning permission last month and construction work could start early next year.

Farrell's return to the London

skyline marks a significant shift in his design philosophy and could also coincide with a revival in his critical status, according to Kester Rattenbury, the academic and critic.

"He's always had a maverick public profile - he was the darling of popular oppositional

schemes in the mid-Eighties and then he became the vilified symbol of Thatcherite Post-modernism. But now he looks set for something of a critical revival because there is a new young generation of architects who love the ironic possibilities of Post-modernism. He's in a strong position for a change of approach," she said.

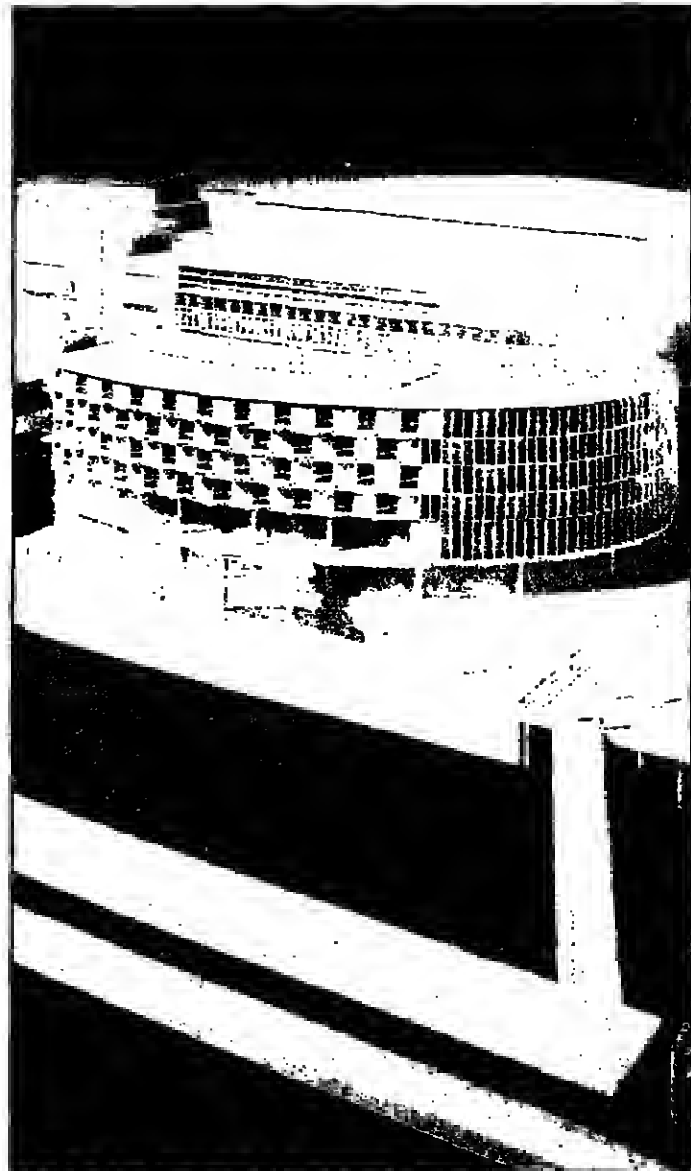
Farrell himself is keen to highlight this change: "We've moved on since the Eighties and now have an evolved architectural approach," he says. "Working overseas has opened our eyes and we now see the world from an international, broader perspective and we look at Three Quays from that point of view."

The new hotel is part of a series of improvements to the area around the Tower and will include a restaurant and shop for it. In addition, there will be a new square, river walkway and pier. "The whole area will be radically transformed for the better," says Farrell.

As for his future, Farrell is very upbeat. His practice has just moved into new offices and a book of sketches showing the change in direction is due out in September. "It seems we might be getting another turn and this time with a fresh approach," says Farrell.

What remains to be seen is whether the architectural establishment will now take him to its heart.

The Architecture Editor Nondie Niesenwand is on sabbatical



Model development: this hotel at Three Quays has just won planning permission Andrew Holt/Terry Farrell & Partners

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL '98

Why less is more for Mamet

He is the master of the minimalist screenplay but his films get bigger and bigger.
Geoffrey Macnab previews 'The Spanish Prisoner' which has its British premiere tonight

THROUGHOUT THE shooting of *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, director Bob Rafelson kept his writer on set. Whenever there was a problem with the dialogue, he made the writer change it.

Once, he set the writer to work revising three or four lines spoken by Frank (Jack Nicholson) and Cora (Jessica Lange) just after they have attempted to murder Cora's husband. Rafelson still wasn't happy. He asked the writer to re-write them. The process repeated itself again and again. "It was four or five in the morning," Rafelson recalls. "I went back to the trailer to see the 51st rewrite of the lines I was going to shoot later that evening. There was a note from the writer saying that he had decided to go back and that if I needed him, to call. So I called the motel where we were staying, but he meant he had gone back, not simply to Los Angeles or even New York - he had gone to London. As far away from me as he could get. He claims I never gave him a free hand."

The writer in question was David Mamet and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1981) was his first screenplay. Judging by the vanishing trick, it wasn't a bumpy baptism but, since then, Mamet's enthusiasm for the movies has grown. As he recently commented, "I used to be a rather committed gambler and I always wanted to play at the Big Table. And the Big Table is movies."

He has gone on to script such films as *Hoffa*, *The Untouchables*, *The Verdict*, *We're No Angels* and *Way the Dog*, while also writing and directing several features of his own. His new film, *The Spanish Prisoner*, has its British premiere at the Edinburgh Film Festival today before its general release next week.

The Spanish Prisoner deals with role-playing, greed, deal-making and duplicity. It is a hugely enjoyable thriller, a sort of *Nineties* counterpart to ripping yarns such as Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*, in which a clean-cut hero has the carpet pulled from beneath his feet again and again. Joe Ross (Campbell Scott) is a scientist who has created a new formula which is going to make his boss (Ben Gazzara) a fortune. He suspects the boss plans to swindle him. He doesn't suspect that his handsome, wealthy lawyer



British auteur David Mamet has out-Hitchcocked Hitchcock by making his new film, *The Spanish Prisoner*, a MacGuffin-packed exercise in teasing

Jimmy Dell (Steve Martin) might have similar intentions.

"Telegraphic" is the word Rafelson uses to describe Mamet's writing style. He recalls that Mamet's first draft of *The Postman Always Rings Twice* didn't much resemble a screenplay in the conventional sense. There were no stage instructions. The dialogue was typically terse. "But I wasn't so startled by this as I was inspired - it was a road map to character."

Mamet, famously, pares down, excising everything which doesn't have a direct bearing on the story. As he writes in his essay *On Film Directing*, "my experience as a director and a dramatist is this: the piece is moving in proportion to how much the author can leave out... always do things the least interesting

way and you make a better movie."

He is not the kind of auteur who aims for startling visual effects. His shooting style is strictly functional. His protagonists, whether the con-artist played by Joe Mantegna in *House of Games*, the cobbler-turned-Mafia boss (Don Ameche) in *Things Change* or, indeed, bland, clean-cut Campbell Scott in *The Spanish Prisoner*, are almost aggressively neutral. They don't show obvious character traits. "The less the hero of the play is infected, identified and characterised," Mamet has observed, "the more we will endow him with our own internal meaning - the more we will identify with him."

Ironically, despite his Jesuit-like devotion to austere, simple storytelling, Mamet's dialogue is usually

instantly recognisable. His characters have a habit of repeating each other's lines and of speaking in a flat monotone. Nobody else writes quite like him.

The Spanish Prisoner might best be described as Mamet's homage to the MacGuffin. This, as most Hitchcock fans know, is a device for trapping lions in the Scottish Highlands. The fact that there aren't any lions in the Scottish Highlands is precisely the point. The MacGuffin sets the narrative moving. At first, it seems to be of crucial importance, "that thing which the hero is chasing. The secret documents... the great seal of the Republic of blah-blah-blah, the delivery of the secret message." By the final reel, though, the original MacGuffin will be long forgotten. In

The Spanish Prisoner, Mamet out-Hitchcocks Hitchcock by stuffing the plot so full of MacGuffins that the audience never quite knows who or what to trust. Even the most innocent-looking characters - the Japanese tourist with the big camera or the man at the zoo - are complicit in the plot against us.

To audiences exasperated by summer blockbusters which give away all their secrets freely, the sheer flirtatiousness of *The Spanish Prisoner* can't help but come as a relief. It is an exercise in teasing and tantalising.

"I think that critics are generally a bunch of unfortunates and should be ashamed of themselves," Mamet wrote in his book of essays, *The Cabin*. Nevertheless, he admitted, he was not entirely im-

mune to the desire for their praise. "Do you seek the good opinion of frauds and imbeciles?" he asked himself. "Well, I guess I do."

If his 1986 play *Speed The Plow* is taken as the litmus, he doesn't think much of Philistine film executives either. *The Spanish Prisoner* pleased both constituencies, performing creditably at the US box-office while garnering enthusiastic reviews.

Whatever else, it proves that Mamet is unique: the only Pulitzer prize-winning playwright who can play the Hollywood game better than the studio bosses.

Yesterday's film round-up, which was incorrectly attributed to Ryan Gilbey, was written by Geoffrey Macnab

FESTIVAL DIARY



SEAN LOCK

MON. 10.40AM. Awake after restless night's sleep. Shower, breakfast, then off to Assembly Rooms. Feel imposing but not yet dominant. See *Krapp's Last Tape*. The elderly actor looked confused. He didn't speak for half an hour and when he did his nose fell off. Very shoddy work. Actors should retire at 30 and get proper jobs. Bump into Johnny Vegas, a fat talentless drunk. I am much funnier than he is, and prove it in the evening with another superb performance.

Tues. 9.16am. Wake alone... good! More milk for me. Have a drink with Rich Hall, wittering Yankee immigrant! I am much funnier than he is. At Late N Live my comic genius is so radiant that journeyman comics huddle away from me, except Mark Lamar who tells me I was shit. I am much funnier than he is.

Wed. 11.40am. Awake in panic: no milk! Buy milk, crisps and tissues from jovial newsagent. Am much funnier than he is. Play football on the meadows with other comedians. Some of my passing was hilarious.

Thurs. 7.25am. No sleep last night. My review in the *Scottsman* failed to mention that I am the funniest man in the world. In fact, they failed to mention that I'm funny at all. As I stride amusingly down Princes Street wearing my star, I realise there must be an experimental dance troupe called "Sean Lock" which has been reviewed by mistake. Phew, what a relief! Get drunk with my mate Bill Bailey. We have a great laugh, but that's mostly down to me.

Fri. 11.25am. Get up but have been awake since 9.00am admiring my firm, athletic legs. At 2pm deliberately avoid crisis meeting with promoter by seeing *Babes with Blades*, a compelling show about the history of women and weapons. Was particularly moved by the lesbian prison fight. In the audience I recognised Frank Skinner, the Midlands smut merchant. In trying to avoid my gaze he obviously concedes that I am much funnier than he is. My show is now so funny that people bring sick pets to be cured by my one-liners.

Sat. 2.30am. Awake terrified, covered in sweat. What if my hilarious act is nothing more than a superhuman power bestowed upon me by some curious alien race? I must fight these destructive thoughts. See *Lady Boys at the Big Top*. Very disappointing, no boots.

Sun. 10.53am. Wake with the confidence of a comic genius. Last night all the comedians signed an affidavit declaring me the funniest man on earth. But it is a moment tinged with sadness as I think of the ancient civilisations that died out before they could enjoy my act. I could have been Pharaoh of Fun, Big Chief Many Giggles or Zeus of Comedy.

Sean Lock is at the Pleasance Cabaret Bar at 8.05pm until 31 August

Still queen of the cabaret - just

MIKA, THE lady boy of New Zealand cabaret, is back at the Edinburgh Fringe. I like Mika. I caught his show twice last year. He sings quite well, in a mildly Jimmy Somerville manner, to his karaoke backing tracks and he struts about with like confidence; but his great strength is his endearing personality. Audiences love him and return night after night for more camp badinage.

Last year, his set was a spicy cocktail of Maori war cries and old Tom Jones numbers, and he brought with him the Uhuras - two tall men in sequined bikinis who high-kicked around him like the girl from Ipanema with attitude. With bored-to-death leers and never-ending legs, they sent him up and took the edge off the sweeter, more

CABARET

MIKA AHI ATAHAUA
ASSEMBLY ROOMS

self-regarding side of the show. This year he's gone solo, and the 80-minute extravaganza is weaker in consequence: singer-songwriter he is not. Without the lovely Uhuras to vamp about while he rests and changes costume, Mika has to take his breathers on stage. Cue some of the most cringe-making ballads it has ever been my misfortune to hear. He still does the show-stopping *Marina, Aquamarina*, with full audience participation, but it is only a third as good as before.

The audience wasn't complaining, though. An excitable party of

girls (who looked like the sixth-form common room on a late pass) rushed up to be showered by the drops as he shook his wet hair in their direction. There was also more nipple-squeezing going on than Tom Jones would ever have stood for. Mika remains adorable, but Edinburgh after closing time is easily pleased. The show is rumoured to be heading south soon, and if he thinks adolescent ditties about junkie boyfriends will work with a London audience, he's in for a nasty shock.

Mika Ahi Atahua is at the Assembly Rooms (0131-226 2428), at 11.45pm, until 5 September

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

The Bard goes back to school

DANCE

ENGLISH SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY: RICHARD III
PLEASANCE

THE ENGLISH Shakespeare Company was founded by Michaela Bogdanov and Pennington in 1986 with the stated aim of bringing Shakespeare to people who didn't think they wanted it (the word "accessible" crops up a lot). Malachi Bogdanov's latest production - a toddlers' *Richard III* - is premiering at the Edinburgh Festival before an 18-week tour. *Richard III* has survived experiments before (British Fascism and London's gangland were rewarding parallels), but do audiences really demand novelty at any price?

The fickle friendships and amoral cruelty of the playground are superficially similar to the short-lived loyalties and alliances of the court (the child-like trust of Clarence and the name-calling between Richard

and Queen Margaret work well). But though this may make a fair point in an essay it is hardly a basis for an entire production, and the emphasis on the primal impulses (greed, fear, insecurity) robs the characters (and actors) of their full emotional range.

Richard III is seldom played in its entirety but here the text has been boldly, if not brutally, pruned. Even Clarence's big dream of watery death has gone, as has Tyrrel's soliloquy on murdering the two princes.

The cuts and the use of cuddly toys as supplementary characters

means the cast has been kept down to a hard-working five who interact with various bears and dollsies in a kind of Shakespearean *Sooty Show*. I'm sure I don't need to tell you what we see when the princes (two small bears) are conveyed to London with "some little train".

The cast manage the fusion of kindergarten and courtly intrigue with aplomb. They are led by Paul Hunter's superb Richard, who capers like a spoilt child left home alone. His innocent-seeming menace and fluent verse-speaking makes him an excellent choice, but he deserves more than a bouncy castle to play in.

At The Pleasance (0131-556 6550) until 23 August LOUISE LEVENE

DAY PLANNER

YOUR HOUR-BY-HOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S BEST AT THE FESTIVAL AND FRINGE

Until 31 Aug (not 25).

12 NOON

THEATRE
12.00-1.45 Joy. Futuristic thriller. *Abbotsford Scott* (venue 103), 18 Morningside Road. (447 1122). £4 (£3.50). Until 22 Aug.

1PM

THEATRE
1.00-2.00 All Strange Away. The European premiere of Beckett's controversial play. *Pleasance Attic*. Price £6.50 (£5.50). Until 31 Aug, not 24.

2PM

CHILDREN
2.00-3.30 *The Nutcracker*. Tchaikovsky's ballet with spectacular giant puppets. South Leith Parish Church Halls (venue 180), Henderson Street. Until 29 Aug (not 23).

3PM

COMEDY
3.00-4.00 Richard Whiteley: Teatime Chat With Richard. More cardigan-friendly chat belmed by *Countdown*'s intellectual dynamo. *Pleasance Over the Road*. Price £7 (£6). Until 31 Aug (not 25).

4PM

THEATRE
4.35-5.35 Tamogotchi Heaven. Adults-only tragicomic tale of a woman and her cyberpet. *Pleasance* (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £6.50 (£5.50). Until 31 Aug.

5PM

COMEDY
5.55-6.45 Universal Grinding Machine. Surreal anti-



Richard Whiteley: 3pm

standup. *Pleasance Below*. Price £6.50 (£5.50). Until 31 Aug, not 24 Aug.

7PM

DANCE
7.20-10.30 Destino Tango. With Dutch maestros Sexteto Canyengue and dancers Club Tango 5. *Graffiti* (venue 90), at the corner of Broughton and East London Streets (557 8330). Price £8.50 (£7.50).

8PM

COMEDY
8.15-9.15 Mark Doherty: Fascinating Things. Unique, surreal standup. *Pleasance* (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £7.50 (£6.50). 20, 23, 25-27 Aug.

COMEDY

8.30-9.30 Rich Hall: 'Grouchy, deadpan, comic, bastard, genius.' Diatribe against America by one of her own. Very funny. *The Observer Assembly* (venue 3), Assembly Rooms, 54 George Street. Price £9 (£8). Until 30 Aug.

9PM

COMEDY
8.00-10.00 Jason Byrne. Fast and furious act with off-the-

cuff material from the talented young standup. His first solo Edinburgh show. *Pleasance* (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £7.50 (£6.50). Until 31 Aug.

COMEDY
9.25-10.25 Al Murray: the Pub Landlord. Keeper of the Pint Cosmic. Cruelly denied the Perrier Award twice, Murray returns for a third stint behind the bar. *Pleasance* (venue 33) (556 6550). Price £8.50 (£7.50). Until 31 Aug, not 25.

10PM

COMEDY
10.15-11.15 The League Against Tedium. Simon Munro's megalomaniacal creation - an antidote to middle-of-the-road comedy blues. *Pleasance Above* (venue 33). Price £8-£9 (£7-£8). Until 31 Aug, not 25.

TICKET OFFERS

Take today's *Independent* to one of the venues below (subject to availability):

The Pleasance (venue 33): five pairs of tickets at the box office.

1.50pm-3.00pm: LookOut Theatre Company - *Transatlantic* - One of Scotland's most exciting new writing companies (Pleasance Two)

Calder's Gilded Balloon (venue 38): five pairs:

3.00pm-4.15pm: The Read Company - *Romantic Friction* - A snappy, new Irish comedy about Anna, a troubled romance writer

Studio Theatre: 10 pairs: 5.00pm-5.30pm: Sadie Potter (The Kosh and Gilded Balloon Productions). Fast-talking and eccentric dancing. (Main Theatre).

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MUSIC

All made up with somewhere to go

The name means 'I will please', and Placebo have done so far. Now for that difficult second album. By Pierre Perrone

I always knew we'd be a weirdo magnet," quips Placebo's frontman, Brian Molko. "We have quite a few obsessive fans who believe that regardless of whether or not you want them in your life, they are going to be in your life. People say you know you're famous when you've got a stalker. Birds of a feather flock together."

With his jet-black hair, diaphanous, grey-blue eyes and painted nails (even the toes are lacquered), the singer cuts an androgynous figure. Much like his band's music, his striking looks split people down the middle. "We inspire strong emotions and reactions, which is much better than indifference," he says. "The general public either love us or hate us, which is cool. It must mean we are doing something right. We must be hitting a nerve."

Molko takes a lot of flak but seems to thrive on it. "People even slag us off for our name," he says. "Placebo" was never meant to have a trickier aspect to it. Taken directly from the Latin, it means, 'I will please', and that's more what we're trying to say. With us it really is the genuine article. People think because we wear make-up that we are quite fake. Or imagine that I'm a straight boy who pretends to be gay in order to get girls, and stuff like that. It's all so very boring when it's just a natural expression of your inner self. We are the genuine article; we are for real. This is not a big elaborate joke. It's too much work and too much emotion and there's too much of our souls invested for it to be one big trick."

In the space of three years, half a dozen visceral singles and two albums (*Without You I'm Nothing*, the second one, is out on 5 October), Placebo have managed to combine the elements of Sonic Youth's noise tactics, Joy Division's minor-chord melancholy and David Bowie's sexual ambiguity.

Molko admits to all those influences: "The Bowie period I love the most is from *Hunky Dory* to *Aladdin Sane*. That's a really special time—the androgynous space-man stuff, Iggy and the Stooges, the MCs and the beginnings of punk. Bowie and Iggy's collaborations were always fascinating to me. So much power embracing an alternative lifestyle and sexuality. As a teenager growing up in Luxembourg it was important to have that kind of outlet."

Rock idols mattered to Molko because



Embracing an alternative lifestyle and sexuality: 'We don't have this particularly heterosexual aesthetic'

he had a peripatetic childhood: "I was born in the States but grew up in Belgium, Liberia and Lebanon. I met Stefan (Olsdal, a lanky Swedish bass-player) at school in Luxembourg when we were 11 or 12. But we were never friends. He was a jock, playing basketball and in the popular crowd, and I was in the drama club, the loser crowd. We bumped into each other by accident in London about four-and-a-half years ago."

"That was a very lucky day," reflected the pair. For a while Stefan and Brian used another Swede (Robert Schultzberg) on

drums but two years ago the American Steve Hewitt, who had originally played on some of their demos, rejoined the fold.

Placebo's cosmopolitan origins mean the musicians have a broader view of things: "We've been exposed to music from a lot of different countries. It's not about putting Union Jacks on our guitars—one-third of us is British, one-third is American and one-third is Swedish. We don't feel like a British band, we feel like Europeans really."

Their broad outlook has enabled the group to succeed in France. "It's our second biggest market after the UK," Molko

says. "They recognise the literary value of music. I'm a bit of a Francophile anyway. I was always into French comics. We have this song called 'Mars Landing Party', one of the B-sides for *Pure Morning* in which I'm singing filthy lyrics in French: 'Embrasse-moi, met ton doigt dans mon cul, c'est une présence ambiguë, c'est une présence inconnue.' It's not meant to offend; it's a bit of a joke really," he teases without blushing.

The lyrics also manage to be non-gender-specific in a language where that is not easy. Molko is quick to point out that he tries to

"make the songs universal. We don't have this particularly heterosexual aesthetic anyway. People can place themselves far easier within the songs when it's not about a chick, which is just what rock and roll is riddled with: love songs with girls' names."

The band may be avoiding clichés but they subscribe to the hard-touring rock ethic. "We needed to get good at playing live and, by the end of our last tour, we had. It was very much an apprenticeship," Molko stresses. "We took all the opportunities we had, really. It was quite a privilege for us to be offered dates with U2 and

David Bowie. It's hard to say no." Especially when you get a chance to open Bowie's 50th birthday bash at Madison Square Garden last year.

"Bowie actually wanted us and that was just an absolute honour," Molko remembers. "We got to meet Sonic Youth, Lou Reed, Robert Smith of The Cure. We hung out with all these people and it was one hell of a night, one of the most memorable nights of my life really."

In a similarly Bowieesque fashion, Placebo appeared in *Velvet Goldmine*, Todd Haynes' glam film. "It's a subject we don't bring up with David because he's doing his own Ziggy Stardust movie, but he's not holding it against us," Molko explains. "We became the Flaming Queens, a trashy group obviously inspired by The New York Dolls. We did a cover of T-Rex's '20th Century Boy'; we wanted to drag it up to the Nineties. It's a real high point of the film, full of colour; it really grabs you. This could be the end of my movie career, but I would like to do more."

Premiered at Cannes and the Edinburgh Festival, *Velvet Goldmine* is now set for general release around the same time as *Without You I'm Nothing*. According to Molko, "the second album has many more layers. It's a bit more ambitious sonically and with our song-writing, and I made a real effort to sing properly and leave that squeaky punk thing behind. It's also a lot deeper on an emotional level."

Indeed, the title track sums up the recurrent theme:

"Most of the tracks are broken-hearted love songs written from the point of view of ex-lovers saying stuff like, 'You Don't Care About Us' (the next single). 'My Sweet Prince' is about a couple of romances, one with a human being and one with a substance, and both ended disastrously. The spark comes from the subconscious but overall the album has a sadness, a loneliness, a Baudelairean spleen."

"*Without You I'm Nothing* works on several levels: it's a message to our fans, a message from us to each other, and it's also written about one particular person, an ex-lover of mine," the singer adds before quoting his own lyrics: "I'm unclean, a libertine and every time you vent your spleen, I seem to lose the power of speech. You're slipping slowly from my reach and you've never seen the lonely me at all."

LYRIC SHEETS

A recent survey of listening tastes by MOJO magazine revealed that we British prefer "pleasant, healing and radio-friendly" music to anything else. Perhaps this is why Vera Lynn and David O'Donnell feature in the Top 100 of the survey whereas The Who, The Pistols and Morrissey don't.

DAD-TYPE MUSIC

(after "Bagpipe Music" by Louis MacNeice)

It's no go The Buzzcocks sound and no go The Pistols
All we want is divas now with re-constructed bristols
Sammy songs and tummy-tucks for Nineties re-inventions
Queuing system music while we tele-shop for pensions
A&R men find a corpse and after re-assembly
Stuff it full of cortisones and put it on at Wembley
Package up its catalogue, wine & dine a critic
Stick it in *Hello* again, airbrushed and arthritic

It's no go for Morrissey and no go for Johnny
Manchester was finished when The Hacienda went up the Swanee

It's no go the UK Subs or Britpop ramalamas
All we need is Ovaltine, James Last and our pyjamas
Michael Bolton newly-shorn resembling Max Headroom
Frank Sinatra in the car and Enya for the bedroom

Frozen icons heated up like Tesco prawn masala
Wheeled out to meet a prince at some ill-programmed gala
Harry Secombe, Vera Lynn, waltzes in three-four time
Overdub some sirens and "Hey wow! It's just like wartime!"



It's no go the Flying V and no go heavy metal
Dose them up with Michael Ball and hope to God they settle

It's no go in Britain's homes for anything with meat on
Until they do a remix with some bloody awful beat on
It's no go for Burt Cocaine but great for Cliff or Barry
Careful with that fader John, the dachshund might miscarry

MARTIN NEWELL

THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE & ARTIST	
1 No Matter What Boyzone	
2 Music Sounds Better Stardust	
3 To the Moon and Back Savage Garden	
4 I Want You Back Cleopatra	
5 Mysterious Times Sash!	
6 The Air That I Breathe Simply Red	
7 Everything's Gonna Be Alright Sweetbox	
8 Viva Forever Spice Girls	
9 Ghetto Supastar Pras Michel	
10 Come With Me Puff Daddy	

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE & ARTIST	
1 Talk On Corners The Corrs	
2 International Velvet Catatonia	
3 Blue Simply Red	
4 Postcards From Heaven Lighthouse Family	
5 Desireless Eagle-Eye Cherry	
6 Where We Belong Boyzone	
7 Life Thru A Lens Robbie Williams	
8 Jane McDonald Jane McDonald	
9 Version 2.0 Garbage	
10 Let's Talk About Love Celine Dion	



Fresh-faced Irish lads Boyzone (above) stay top of the pile with a charming number penned by that purveyor of pop cool, Lord Lloyd Webber, but tugging at their shiny heels is this summer's Ibiza club favourite, "Music Sounds Better With You".

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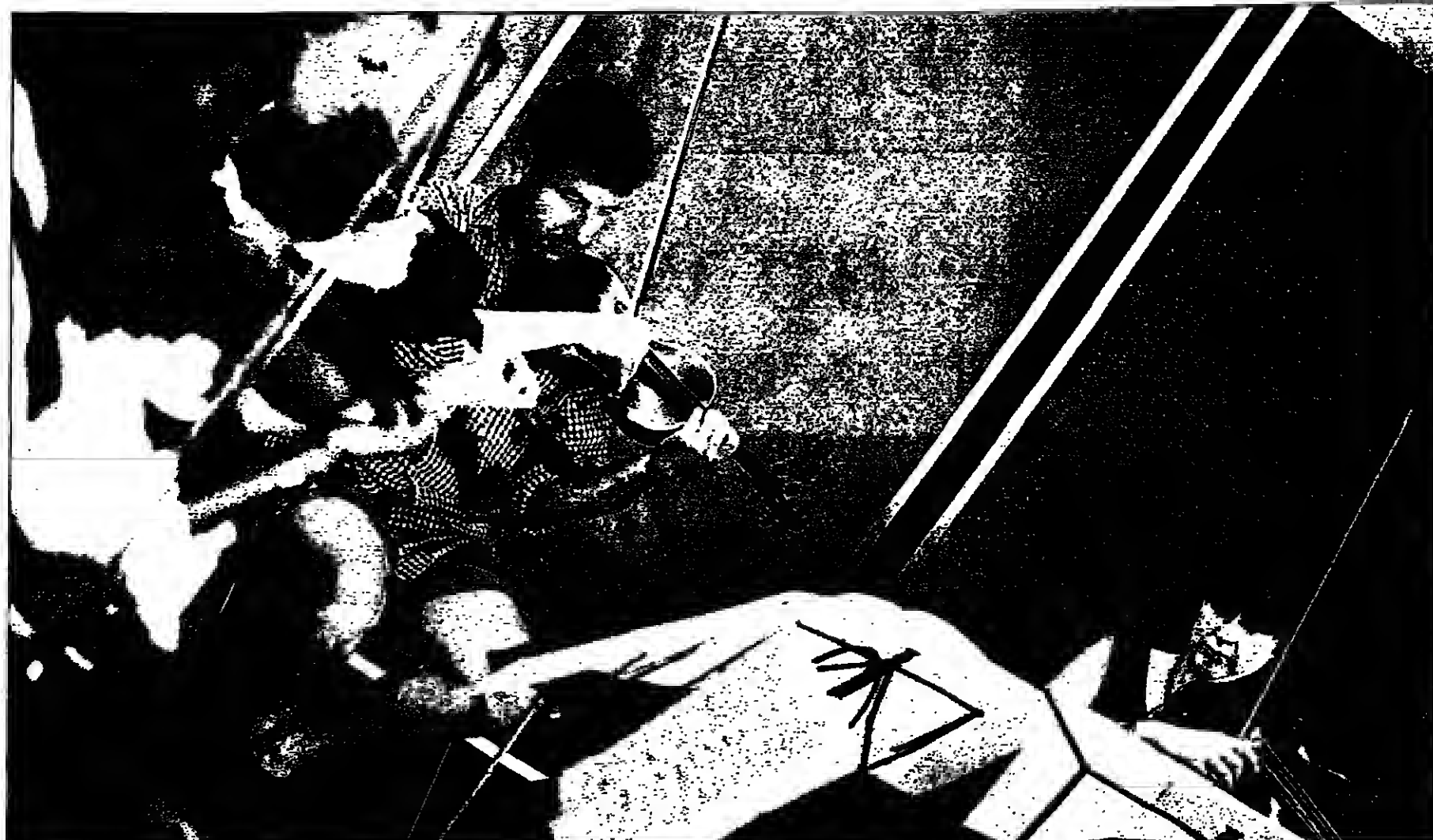
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It's cool to be highly strung

Synthesiser manufacturers beware. The epic sound of strings (yes, *real* strings) is making a comeback on the dancefloor. By Imran Khan



Instrumental, the six-piece classical ensemble, have lent strings some of the most seminal dance records of the Nineties

Geraint Lewis

IF YOU have been out clubbing lately, you may have heard a sound that seems strangely familiar to you. As the repetitive beats of drum 'n' bass thunder somewhere around your midriff, glimmering above the top of your head is the cut-glass sound of an orchestra. No, it isn't the drugs: a new sound is emerging. Full-scale orchestras are making inroads into the dance music scene. Strings and brick-hard beats are leading a merry dance through clubland.

This is by no means a new phenomenon, though. According to the journalist and musician David Toop, strings have been an essential part of dance music since the Motown days of the Sixties: "If you look back at the propulsive dance music of 'This Old Heart of Mine' by the Isley Brothers, the strings are attacking you, and coupled with a great song, you get a superb combination, which pushes all the right buttons."

You can follow this lineage through to disco, with its early

beginnings at Philadelphia Records and its founder, Tom Bell. David Toop continues: "Tom Bell came from a very straight, middle-class background and grew up listening to classical music. In fact, he probably did not hear any thing else except classical until he was 14 years old. So, at Philadelphia, he employed a house band, MPFB to supply the shimmering sound of strings. This then mutated into Salsoul, which has successively influenced soul, house and then garage."

If you look at the works of people like Isaac Hayes, it is difficult to imagine him having even half the desired effect on your loved one without the addition of strings in the background. The hippopotamus of love himself, Barry White, knew the effect his voice and a soothingly placed violin had, so much so that he called his band The Love Unlimited Orchestra.

For a time in the Seventies, strings in pop music automatically meant romance and sex. No easy-listening album worth its salt was

without a full orchestra abetting singers such as Engelbert Humperdinck and Tony Christie. This is partly the reason that strings fell out of favour with the musicians of the Eighties, who took to synthesisers instead. The New Romantics preferred the alien noise of the Roland RX7 to a viola, and orchestras in pop became strictly the domain of popsters - such as Elton John - trying to impress blushing princesses.

In the late Nineties, however, it seems that no self-respecting producer will go into the studio without a sizeable string accompaniment. The Mercury prize-winner and respected junglist Roni Size has a double bass as an integral part of his live set. The proto-junglists 4 Hero have just completed a live tour with 18 musicians on stage with them. Recent albums by underground artists such as Outside, Dobie and D Note all feature lush string arrangements. Even hip hop has been getting in on the orchestral act, with string sounds forming an

No self-respecting producer goes into the studio without a sizeable string accompaniment

essential part of the hard-core outfit The Wu Tang Clan.

In a week that sees Talvin Singh release his 11-minute-long magnum opus *Truelove* - which is purely string-laden for at least six of those 11 minutes - it seems pertinent to ask why it is that strings have re-emerged in dance music. Is it a case of pomposity gone mad, or is it more a need to bring organic warmth to the music?

The British Asian artist Nitin Sawhney, who releases his third album in November, featuring strings as a key part of the sound-

scape, believes that "people are now bored with that computer-generated sound... they want to get back to warmth. I think we have gone as far as we can with synthesisers".

According to the rising star DJ Bobby Friction: "Strings are back because people have realised that it can mean the beautiful sounds of Bollywood film work - rather than the contemporary nonsense of the likes of Nigel Kennedy and Vanessa Mae."

The London club outfit Kahma FC, whose last single, "Bright Morning White", had a string intro that was not dissimilar to The Verve's "Bitter Sweet Symphony", use strings, according to its founder member Daniel Kahuma, to get across "a cinematic feeling, a feeling of something other than straight-out dance tracks".

This is a view shared by Nitin Sawhney: "What it allows you to do is be epic, and to introduce epic concepts to music."

One of the best exponents of classical music in the breakbeat and jungle arenas is Instrumental, a six-piece classical orchestra that has lent strings to some of the most seminal dance records of the late Nineties. Led by Everton Nelson and Catherine Browning, Instrumental formed in 1994 after Everton grew disillusioned with the traditional classical format. "I got frustrated with the rigidity of classical styles, and I have always grown up with dance music, I have a natural affinity with it," he says.

This led to Everton and Catherine reworking the number "Little Fluffy Clouds" by the ambient pioneers The Orb. "We sent a tape of it to The Orb and they asked us to open for them at their next London Forum shows." Instrumental have now collaborated with various people, including 4 Hero. When playing live, Instrumental are a whirlwind to watch.

Their recent collaboration with junglists Mao sees them playing strings with beats crashing under-

neath them, without either form being diluted. Catherine sees this as being "bloody good fun", while Everton contemplates the reaction from classical music purists. "I think they have to realise that there is a new generation of classical players that are versatile, that have to do things like this, because cuts in funding mean we have to work in other arenas."

As dance music becomes increasingly sophisticated and more groups take to the stage, the addition of a string section can enliven any act. So instead of club acts being two hokes stood on stage shielded by vast banks of electronics, you can have many instruments and soundclashes that enrich an otherwise fairly boring experience.

So what is the next move for the orchestras? Perhaps it would be wise for Chris Smith to give some of that much-needed lottery money to the club scene. So instead of the proposal for Shakespeare in nightclubs, we get Wagner à la drum 'n' bass instead.

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY BABYBIRD FRONTMAN STEPHEN JONES

First record bought: A SEVEN-INCH on sea-blue vinyl which my parents are keeping for me. It's a collection of Maori folk tales set to music, telling such tales as "Whale Gods and Tani" and "King of the Forest". I lived in New Zealand as a child and our dog, a collie, was called Tani. She's dead now, and the record reminds me of her.



Last record bought: A \$4.49 COMPILATION of Arvo Pärt's works. It is a collection of his simplest and most powerful compositions. This has very simple piano refrains and use of voices. He is an Estonian composer for which I can find no comparison, except maybe Gregorian chants, but more beautiful. It reminds me of silence, of being away from cities and totally alone.

Babybird's album 'There's Something Going On' is released on 24 August.

Headlines about Courtney Love generally read something like: tampon-tossing Hole singer, wife of the more famous Kurt Cobain, former drug user, the subject of Nick Broomfield's film, *Kurt And Courtney*. However, you won't find these subjects discussed in next month's interviews to promote Hole's new album, *Celebrity Skin* due to her ban on questions relating to those topics.

The fame game, according to George Michael, is to put things

straight rather than let "them" make it up. Rumours abound that George's latest single, "Outside", deals with the star's recent arrest for lewd conduct. The *New York Daily News* asserts that it is about outdoor sex. The paper also states that Michael requested that his community service be served within the gay and lesbian community.

Following a bout of bankruptcy and the dismal failure of his 1994 record, *Funky Bunch*,

SLEEVE NOTES

Eighties rapper MC Hammer, he of the sadly unforgettable "Can't Touch This" and those peculiar llama pants, has turned his attention to preaching the word of the gospel on the Black Entertainment Network. Speaking about his spiritual journey to becoming an ordained Baptist minister, Hammer said: "I allowed my business to take me away from God, of my own volition. It is what I

call wilful sin. Old MC Hammer is dead."

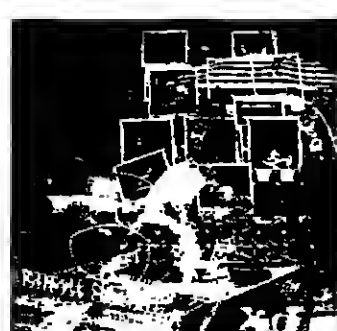
Meanwhile the rekindling of another genre of eighties music will be fuelled by Sony's announcement that new deals have been signed with glam metal bands, Great White, Ratt, Whitesnake and Heart, and they are also negotiating with Poison. Those other Eighties make-up lovers, The Cure, are also due to reappear, courtesy of front-man Robert Smith's debut on the

Orgasmo soundtrack. The name of Smith's new band, which includes his Cure colleague, Jason Cooper, and Reeves Gabrels of Tin Machine, is an amalgamation of their surnames, COGASM. The *Orgasmo* soundtrack, which also includes Crystal Method, the Dust Brothers and the Wu-Tang Clan, will be released on 6 October on the Dust Brothers' Nickelbag Records. The film, written, directed by and starring South Park creator Trey Parker, is out on 23 October.

JENNIFER RODGER

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL

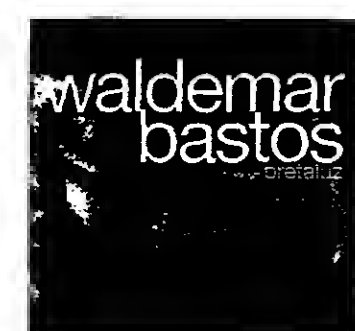


Elliott Smith
XO

(Dunemoor)

The fact that Elliott Smith's first UK release - of his third album, *either/or* - only appeared this June makes the progression to this, his first major-label outing, seem all the more extraordinary. Compared to *either/or*'s sparse, bare settings, the arrangements devised by Smith and production team Tom Rothrock and Rob Schnapf (best known for Beck's "Loser") border on the baroque - not that the songs themselves are any less emotionally naked than before. Smith's songs are plangent musings upon the everyday, a series of confidences in which he searches vainly for the moral in the mundane. They offer a blow-by-blow glimpse of the workings of his peculiar sensitivity, with understated but engaging melodies that establish a familiarity of sorts, but quickly vanish once a song concludes, leaving behind a lingering trace of a tune.

The sophisticated arrangements lend a curiously late-Beattles soft-rock flavour to Smith's ruminations, with a string of other comparisons layered on top. The effect is to unearth a wider range of emotional nuances than were revealed by Smith's three previous albums; commercially, *XO* could even set this most reclusive of artists along the same road as his label-mate Beck. Stranger things have happened.



Waldemar Bastos
Pretaluz

(Lukie Bop 9 46481-2)

The most sublime release in some time from David Byrne's world-music label, Pretaluz - the name means "black light" - is a masterpiece of restrained flamboyance, a blend of spiky African styles which involve the personal as the political, the whole imbued with a generosity of spirit. Bastos is a self-confessed contradiction, an Angolan exile hailed as the true voice of his country despite having lived in Portugal for much of his life. His position as an apolitical exile allows him to sustain a sense of Angola's character outside the context of the civil war which turned the country into a kind of Cold War sideshow. "Angola, Angola, Angola," he implores in "Querida Angola", "you don't belong to strangers... you don't belong to this one or that one," a reference to the opposing Soviet- and US-backed forces.

Against this history of hardship, Bastos posits a simple togetherness, exemplified by the eclectic pan-African-and-beyond backings, which assimilate *soukous* guitar, Latin American and Afro rhythms and traces of Portuguese *fado* singing into their gentle but persuasive folk-soul surface. The results can be immensely moving: the opening track "Sofrimento" - torment, or suffering - is a remarkable sleight of hand, a powerful emotional current caught in a delicate net of guitar.



Fun Lovin' Criminals
100% Colombian

(Chrysalis CDP 070)

Fun Lovin' Criminals are one of the most sheerly enjoyable live acts around, and on 100% *Colombian*, they finally pin down that air of consensual reggae in a way which *Come Find Yourself*, for all its warmth, never managed. Slinky and sensual, their laid-back funk grooves have a supremely relaxed persistence - even the brash "Korean Bodega" rolls with a confident swagger - while Huey's off-hand raps ooze sharp-dressed outlaw cool.

Twin titans Barry White and BB King receive appropriate tribute: the former as the conjugal saviour of "Love Unlimited", the latter making an inimitable guest appearance on "Mini Bar Blues"; and interrupting the cool funk flow are a few rowdier exertions, typified by Huey's saucy (but believable) claims of "supermodels on my D" in "Big Night Out". For the most part, though, he deals with territorial matters: assessing the merits of getting "Up On The Hill" and "Back On The Block", hymning the "Southside", sketching the action on "10th Street", and magnanimously concurring that "The View Belongs To Everyone". Slyly confidential, Huey's nonchalant tales of Big Apple streetlife read like a '90s Damon Runyon, or a particularly casual episode of *NYPD Blue*: it's all about the character of crime, not just the facts, ma'am.



U.N.K.L.E.
Psyence Fiction

(Mercury MWOBCDP)

Three years in the making, this collaboration between Mo' Wax supremo James Lavelle and the label's top-selling act, DJ Shadow, stumbles in part from having to follow *Dying Happy*, the last of his solo works, and Jones' most rewarding album yet. *There's Something Going On* isn't a particularly bad album, but its focus on human frailty and obsessional love swiftly becomes overbearing. It's not so much a matter of insight, as of attitude: for all its catchy pop gloss, this is a severely jaundiced album, drawn to dark interpretations of human motives.

There are good moments, none better than the sentimental opener "Bad Old Man", a cutting disavowal of an (unnamed) media magnate set to a Morricone-esque piano figure. The effect is impressively Brechtian - one could imagine Lotte Lenya relishing every last phrase. And the way the circling arpeggios of "If You'll Be Mine" subtly evoke the narrator's state of emotional suspension is typical of the album's more artful arrangements. But there are too many lapses into the ploddingly plaintive or overwrought, and too many tracks where loud repetition is substituted for any more adequate climax. One may applaud Baby Bird's attempts to float downbeat observations on uplifting music, but sadly, the freight is too weighty to fly.



Baby Bird
There's Something Going On

(Echo EXL CD24)

This is the second album by Baby Bird the band, as opposed to Steven Jones alone, though its shortcomings are still largely his fault. It suffers in part from having to follow *Dying Happy*, the last of his solo works, and Jones' most rewarding album yet. *There's Something Going On* isn't a particularly bad album, but its focus on human frailty and obsessional love swiftly becomes overbearing. It's not so much a matter of insight, as of attitude: for all its catchy pop gloss, this is a severely jaundiced album, drawn to dark interpretations of human motives.

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BABYBIRD

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NEW ALBUM: THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON OUT ON 24 AUGUST

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with the things

An industry in crisis? Not quite

Classical record industry in crisis? Or not, as the case may be. New releases may be plummeting but, since everyone plays the numbers game differently, there is hot debate about the real volume of sales. So here, instead, is a tale of four labels, which together may give some hint of the way the wind is blowing.

We will begin at the beginning, with Deutsche Grammophon, which a hundred years ago really was the record industry. Nobody has a backlist like DG's, and its 60-CD Centenary Collection is predictably impressive. But so serious is its present plight that even its promotional blurb hints darkly at cutbacks and layoffs.

Sober, serious Karsten Witt is the man on the company throne in Hamburg, who proclaims at the start of our interview that "DG can only succeed if it takes its educational role seriously". How on earth does he square this with the promotion of *Twilight of the Gods: The Essential Wagner Collection* (emblazoned with gunships from *Apocalypse Now*) through gun-freak magazines in London? "That was a local initiative, and we in Germany were very surprised. In Germany it would have been unthinkable to put Wagner in such a context. Maybe we don't understand the British sense of humour. I assume it was meant to be funny?" When I point out that it has sold a seriously large number of records, he sighs. "In the marketing business there are many things we would rather not know about."

Witt is fastidious, too, about compilations - "the Classic FM syndrome, tasteless, disgusting!" - but draws a sharp distinction between "My 20 Best Operatic Orchestras" and a compilation of piano tracks called *Pür Elise: My First Recital* which DG has just released with a CD-Rom. "OK, this is a compilation too, but it's designed to draw people in. It's interactive - like our Pollini Beethoven project, it lets you follow the score, and even change its speed or key, or print out a version with your own fingering. It's not passive."

The point is well made, and Witt goes on to promise richer fare in future: new music, world music, no more rehashes of fogged-to-death classics. But when pressed on how the company plans to survive, as opposed to winning Browdie points, his answer is depressingly predictable: simply a harder sell. "Anne-Sophie Mutter is giving 80 recitals this year to support the Beethoven sonata CD we're releasing next month, and she's also done a TV documentary. She's the ideal artist for us." So is the new German super-soprano Christine Schäfer, obligingly singing in a Prom next week to launch a release. So is the super-baritone Bryn Terfel, as media-friendly as they come.

Witt really does intend to yank the German battleship around. "We're speeding up our production, and doing more rush-releases." By this

MICHAEL CHURCH



Scholl's defection from Harmonia Mundi to Decca is predictable, if annoying. The big record labels can still sign cheques like football clubs

he means things such as the sacred-music CD he put out last year in France to coincide with the Pope's visit, and Abbado's New Year bash with the Berlin Phil, which included a posse of DG soloists. "Selling records on the back of such events is the only way forward for us."

Which, when you think about it, sounds desperate - and a far cry from the bullishness of Harmonia Mundi, which is about to release its 40th anniversary edition. This classical label packs a punch out of all proportion to its modest size, and its prosperity is based, in part, on a local brainwave: its own chain of shops in France and Spain. "We looked at the mismatch between declining record sales and the growth of the music-loving public," says its founder, Bernard Contax, from his base in Arles. "And we decided to open our own boutique here, where there was no record shop. The experiment worked, so over the next five years we opened 30 more in other French towns, then two in Spain." And in Britain? "I've asked our local people. I'm awaiting their reply."

Harmonia Mundi also sells books, but its biggest weapon is plain, old-fashioned talent-spotting, from Alfred Deller to *Anonymous 4*, via the leading lights of the Baroque. A while ago, they heard a 23-year-old counter-tenor called Andreas Scholl. "And we thought, a gifted boy. Let's keep an eye on him." Scholl was well worth keeping an eye on: this year, egged on by Classic FM, the wider world has tumbled to the ethereal beauty of his voice, and his Clark Kent features adorn the covers of music magazines everywhere. He, too, is media-friendly, submitting to public interviews in HMV stores after which punters buy records by the van-load. As Harmonia Mundi's sales manager, Ian Lambert, ecstatically puts it, Scholl's recording of the Vivaldi *Stabat Mater* is "flying in the shops".

"But now," adds Lambert with a growl, "after all this time and effort on our part, he ups and goes to Decca." Just as the conductor

William Christie, another Harmonia Mundi discovery, defected to Warner. All very annoying, but also predictable: the big labels may be in trouble, but they can still sign cheques like football clubs. Lambert brightens again: "At least we've got more Scholl recordings in the pipeline. He's our man till next April."

Meanwhile, a strange missive flies through my letterbox, more like a party invitation than a CD, though that's what it turns out to be. This is the preview record with which a label called SoundCircus is announcing its birth, and it contains a wonderful pianistic medley: from boogie by Nikki Yock to gamelan-style Cage to William Byrd done straight. No prizes for guessing its begetter: the preteen pianist Joanna MacGregor, making her debut as a record producer.

This is an idea, she says, born of years of frustration. "I got very tired of playing to large audiences

all round the world and finding that there were never any records for people to buy afterwards in the foyer. Classical companies make recordings in a void. They don't make the necessary link with concerts." This is ironic, given Deutsche Grammophon's belated conversion. "I wanted to question every part of the recording process, including the packaging of the product," she says. "We're not selling in the shops, which means we don't have to use that horrible little plastic box which splits and falls apart. It also means we can marry styles in a way the big labels and record shops - which pigeonhole rigidly - can never contemplate." MacGregor's first product will bring in the jazz of Django Bates, the electronics of Jonathan Harvey and all points between. "I'm just hoping to cover my costs. I don't want to fall into the trap of having to price things at the same level as everyone else."



Postal pianist: the internationally-acclaimed soloist Joanna MacGregor has set up her own mail-order label to bypass the major record labels *Hanya Chlala*



MacGregor will sell by mail order, linking up with the celebrated subscription-only music journal *Unknown Public*. She will also sell on the Internet. "In five years' time, we'll probably be downloading all our music from it." But none of this, she says, is new. "Everything I'm talking about is going full speed in Amsterdam, for example. In Britain, we're still in thrall to American ways of doing

things. We need to become more European, more adventurous."

The final label, Blue Snow, might equally have been named "Philip Sheppard" since it was called into being to disseminate a recording that this prolific young cellist wants the world to hear. *The Glass Cathedral* puts his custom-built electronic cello through its paces, and very interesting these are: from birdsong to the groaning of ships' timbers, from detuned harmonics to weird melodic whistles. At present available by mail order only it should be in the shops by October, but Sheppard is not too bothered.

"I've done a lot of recordings for big labels, and I've seen how much people pay for a thing which is absurdly cheap to make. I've printed a thousand, which cost me £700, I spent £1,500 in the studio. And when I break even, I'm going to give them away. If I shift 500, that's great. For all I care, the others can be novelty

beer-mats. Why should I charge £15 for a thing that cost me £5 to make? I'm actually not prepared to buy my own commercial recordings - they may be great, but they're too expensive." Perhaps he protests too much, but the message is clear. "There are a lot of musicians who think as I do about this: we're getting back to what the musical entrepreneurs in the 18th century did: financing our work by friends promising to buy it."

Four labels, with two philosophies, and all addressing the same broad public. Perhaps they should talk to one another. Meanwhile, one thing is sure: reports of the record industry's death are greatly exaggerated.

SoundCircus CDs are available from PO Box 354, Reading, RG2 7BR. website: www.soundcircus.com. The Glass Cathedral is available by telephoning 0467 810 560.

Orchestral manoeuvres in the East

These are hard times in post-Soviet Russia, even for institutions that were once among the jewels of the USSR's devotion to the arts. Rob Cowan travels to St Petersburg to hear the fortunes of the Philharmonic

ST PETERSBURG'S Swedish-designed Pribaltyskaya Hotel sits on the Bay of Finland like a huge armchair awaiting some mythic god. The neighbouring beach is littered with junk. Wiry teenagers clamber over a washed-up Lada like sharks snatching at a carcass, while coach-loads of sightseers punctuate the long, "white" nights of summer.

It is a city with things on its mind: pensive, insecure and impatient. But the band plays on - more so now, in fact, than when the Soviets were in power. "In St Petersburg, there are around 3,500 concerts a year, that's if you count small-ensemble activities in our palaces and museums," says Anton Getman, from the Philharmonic. "And we hold 500 concerts here at the Philharmonic Hall."

The palatial "Big Hall" seats 1,300, and the "Chamber Hall" 400. "Big-name soloists and conductors always attract a good audience," says Getman. "But it's difficult to maintain standards when you're giving 17 concerts a day."

The Philharmonic was founded in 1802, and shares its regal homestead with the rival Symphony Orchestra, a less refined band that sprang to life as a radio orchestra in the Thirties, and played Shostakovich's "Seventh Symphony" during the Siege of Leningrad. Neither the Philharmonic nor the Symphony has any official connections with local government (a

small subsidy comes from Moscow), whereas there are six other orchestras that do belong to the government of St Petersburg.

Tickets sales and sponsorships are crucial to the Philharmonic's survival. The chief conductor, Yuri Temirkanov, has effected a modest expansion of the orchestra's repertoire since the days of the feared and revered Yevgeny Mravinsky, whose 50-year association with the "Leningrad Philharmonic" ended with his death in 1988.

"We are going to play Ravel at Carnegie Hall," Temirkanov tells me, then switches the subject to Borodin's three symphonies. "They're not played very much," he says with a shrug. "Which doesn't mean that I'd like to play them - I wouldn't." He notes my disappointment, then laughs and throws in a counter-suggestion: "People in the West ought to know the first three Tchaikovsky symphonies better."

He talks of the "codes" in Shostakovich's music. "The purpose of the conductor is to work them out," he says quizzically. But if you then talk "standard rep", he bemoans the unlikelihood of ever being able to record Brahms or Beethoven symphonies. "It is impossible," he says, shaking his head and lighting up for the umpteenth time. "First of all, there is no time; and secondly, the recording companies are cutting contracts and com-



Tchaikovsky - the cream of Russia's great composers

plaining that everything has been recorded too much already. Nowadays, the number one objective of a record company is sales, not quality."

Temirkanov rehearses with the minimum of physical gestures, admonishing occasionally in a soft, graying voice. Mravinsky was soft-spoken, too, but don't let that fool you. "Like all great men, he could be either kind or terrifying," says concertmaster Lev Klychkov, who played under Mravinsky's baton for six years. "Some people even had heart attacks on stage. It was not easy. You would sit there during

rehearsal, nervous, uncomfortable - not thinking about the music, but about the rate of your heart. If he looked in your direction, that was enough."

"Nowadays, we are able to make a programme from three rehearsals, plus a general rehearsal, whereas under Mravinsky we could work eight or nine days on a programme that we had played countless times before."

Most new members of the Philharmonic are head-hunted from the local music conservatoire. Years ago, the management used to audition people from as far afield as Georgia and Ukraine, but now "it's only Russia," Getman explains. "If musicians are from different republics, it's as if they're from abroad. In the old days, all Mravinsky had to do was phone the right Communist official and he could arrange accommodation for any new player."

The problem now isn't political, it's financial. We cannot afford to rent apartments for members, and yet, before 1991, this was the best-paid orchestra in Russia: the concertmaster's salary equalled that of the Minister of Culture, and even a back-desk newcomer earned double the salary of a student doctor. It was easy to get musicians to come here, because we were considered the aristocrat of orchestras, the perfect example of how it 'could be' under socialism. Now, people are leaving and the salaries are miserable."

And yet, listening to the St Petersburg Philharmonic in concert confirms that it is still one of the great Russian

orchestras. But it needs to attract new audiences, especially among the prosperous. "Many rich people have no idea what 'classical' music is about," says Getman. "But they certainly have the notion that it is prestigious to be seen at our concerts - perhaps by a Governor, or someone similar. And they, like students, have a right to a musical education."

"I personally know of an extremely wealthy middle-aged couple who attended their first Philharmonic concert two years ago, and who have now become regulars. They're here every week, because they want to hear something new."

And there's yet another side to St Petersburg musical life: its 25 FM radio stations, two of which - Orpheus and Classic FM (no relation) - are purely classical. "More and more of our radio stations are moving towards classical music," confesses Getman. "Five years ago, they played only rock and pop, but now the station El Dorado devotes the last 15 minutes of every hour to classical music."

"We have organised for Baltic Radio to broadcast live concerts direct from Philharmonic Hall, and ticket sales for these concerts has risen by around 30 to 50 per cent. You know how it is: people go to the office the next morning, ask their colleagues whether they heard the concert on the radio, and can then say, with pride, 'Ah, but I was there!'"

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Fame was the only spur

Gerard Presencer was paid only £300 for his now-famous solo on *Cantaloup* – but it made his name. By Phil Johnson

WHEN GERARD Presencer was 19 he played the now-famous trumpet solo on "Cantaloup", the debut single by a then new group, USS. The track was later used for numerous television commercials around the world, the BBC made it the theme music for *Late Review* and the album it was sold millions.

USS got seriously rich and then broke up, while Presencer received about £300 – the normal fee for a session musician. It did not pay many bills but Presencer did earn serious respect from his peers, an important currency for jazz musicians. The veteran hard-bop trumpeter Freddie Hubbard (to whose old "Blue Note" label the solo was partly a homage), even thought for a while that he must have played on the session himself. Herbie Hancock, whose composition "Cantaloup Island" formed the basis for "Cantaloup", also voiced his approval.

Now, six years older and a little wiser, Presencer is releasing his own debut album, *Platypus* (which is also the name of his group).

It seems to have been an awful long time coming: Presencer has been the rising new star of British jazz for years. But after being encouraged from an early age by his jazz-fan father and playing with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra since his early teens, he long ago tired of his wunderkind status.

In the meantime, he has served his apprenticeship as a sideman with various groups, including those of the veteran British pianist Stan Tracey and the Rolling Stones' drummer Charlie Watts, while playing sessions to pay his bills.

Even if you don't know Presencer's name, you will certainly

have heard him on records by Jamiroquai and the Brand New Heavies.

The new album is especially welcome as it represents an accommodation between the straight-ahead jazz he has tended to play by choice, and the funk stuff that he does for a living (and which he insists he loves just as much). It is a great album, but the group is perhaps best heard live, when the combination of Presencer's flugelhorn and Jason Rebello's Fender Rhodes electric piano is stunningly effective.

The governing aesthetic may be partly retro (and there's nothing wrong with that), but the tunes are all Presencer's own, and the result offers that all-too-rare experience in British jazz, a middle way between the head, the heart, and the body. You may even be able to dance to *Platypus*, but you'll have to think on your feet as you do so.

Presencer looks back at the USS experience with a mixture of stoic acceptance and understandable chagrin. "I was bitter about it for a long time, but that's the plight of the session musician," he says. "I was 19 and they said, 'Can you do a Freddie Hubbard?' Now, I don't think I'd do it. When they asked me to play on the follow-up record I asked for a decent fee and a percentage and they said no."

"But it got me known all over the world and it may well be the biggest thing I ever do. It's good now – there was a time when I felt like a novelty act because my dad put me on the stage very young and I was paranoid about it for years. Now I can enjoy being an old bastard at 25."

The idea for *Platypus*, both band and album, emerged, Presencer

says, "because I've had such a schizophrenic musical experience so far, and the main criterion is now to do what I like. I've had this kind of alter-ego career doing Seventies-style funk and acid jazz, and I like that music as well as ordinary jazz. It's not as if I change that much either. Maybe I'm more concise in the funk stuff, but I learned that kind of discipline playing in big bands when I was younger, so that you don't show all your technique in one go. With Stan Tracey's quartet, where I've got more time and an open canvas, I've built on interesting little quirks that I might have learned in pop stuff."

With *Platypus*, Presencer plays the larger, more mellow-sounding flugelhorn rather than the trumpet. "For the last two or three years that's all I've been playing," he says. "I'm more interested in a linear approach, like playing a sax, and it's very difficult on trumpet to hold back those flashy tricks... they're just too tempting. It's like the pianist Bill Evans having fantastic technique but the good taste not to use it. I prefer the sound of the flugelhorn now, and I can play as high without just blowing the shit out of it."

The new album's emphatically old-school sound is down to where it was recorded. "We went to Mickie Most's Rak studio because we wanted a Seventies analogue feel to the recording," Presencer says. "There's these old radio mikes and an old valve desk there, and the sound for brass was just what I wanted. It far exceeded my expectations and I'm more than pleased with the result."

Platypus by Gerard Presencer is out now on Linn Records



After years as a sideman and session musician Gerard Presencer has released his own album, *Platypus*

Redfern

ENTERTAINMENT: CONCERTS, THEATRE & EVENTS

Theatre	Theatre	Concerts
Peter Frostick and Martin Dodd for UK Productions <i>Paul Nicholas in the Pirate King</i> "The Smash Hit Broadway and West End Musical" "Pirates of Penzance" Eastbourne, Croydon Theatre Tue 1 to Sat 5 Sept '98 01323 412000 Hull, New Theatre Mon 7 to Sat 12 Sept '98 01402 226655 Newcastle upon Tyne, Theatre Royal Mon 13 to Sat 19 Sept '98 0191 232 2061 Woking, New Victoria Theatre Mon 21 to Sat 26 Sept '98 01303 761144 Nottingham, Theatre Royal Mon 28 Sept to Sat 3 Oct '98 0115 989 5555 Swansea, Grand Theatre Mon 5 to Sat 11 Oct '98 01792 457515 Belfast, Grand Opera House Mon 12 to Sat 17 Oct '98 01252 241919 Edinburgh, Festival Theatre Mon 19 to Sat 24 Oct '98 0131 529 6000 Llandudno, North Wales Theatre Mon 26 to Sat 31 Oct '98 01493 873009 Wrexham, Festival Theatre Mon 2 to Sat 7 Nov '98 01901 820930 Oxford, Apple Theatre Mon 9 to Sat 14 Nov '98 01863 245444 Southampton, Playhouse Theatre Mon 16 to Sat 21 Nov '98 01302 456456 Hantsley, The Royal Mon 23 to Sat 28 Nov '98 01782 712500 01782 207777	Shakespeare's Globe Theatre 1998 Season 21 July – 26 July Teatro Bucadia from Cuba One Tempest – Another Tempest BO 0171 401 9919 / 0171 316 4703 (24hrs) Friday 31 July 10pm The Comedy Store Players Christmas POETRY WRITERS An Opportunity to Publish Your Work Also any subject considered from NEW AUTHORS NOVELS • SHORT STORIES FICTION • NON-FICTION • ETC. Details from: The Skylark Press (Dept. IND) Suite 401, 302 Regent Street London W1R 6W NEW AUTHORS PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED Fiction, non-fiction, biography, religious, poetry, children AUTHORS WORLDWIDE WANTED WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO: MINERVA PRESS LONDON SW7 5DG	@blackheath pianoworks'98 The International piano festival that's full of surprises 3-6 September Featuring: Kathryn Stott Stephen Hough Leslie Howard Steve Mallory Marc-André Hamelin Jody Applebaum Sola Terey Michael Collins Philippe Gratin Stephen Coombs Kreutzer Quartet Raphael Wollschlaeger Steven Isserlis Arthur Schnabel Stan Tracey Blackheath Concert Hall Box Office 0171 403 0100

What's On	Entertainments
The Horniman Museum Presents Autumn Concert series 1998 Echoes of Africa Arsoung Collective - Sun 6th Sept 3pm Bridgetower and the 'Kreutzer' Sonata - Sun 13th Sept 3pm The Casablanca Steps - Sun 20th Sept 3pm Coleridge - Taylor's Variations in B minor for cello - Sun 27th Sept 3pm Admission is free although there is a booking fee of £5 for reserving seats in advance	Big Bike Ride 13-21 March 1999 20-28 March 1999 A Journey Through Jordan Big Challenge Raise money to help homeless young people Cycle 375km in 5 days And have the time of your life! Contact Jane Higgins on 0171 704 7019 for more details
Henry V "Robert J. Williamson is outstanding as Henry" Birmingham Evening Post MARBLE HILL HOUSE 28 AUGUST 7:30PM A Midsummer Night's Dream "a wonderful version of the bard's classic... an excellent production" Yorkshire Post KENWOOD HOUSE 25-26 AUGUST 7:30pm MARBLE HILL HOUSE 27-29 AUGUST 7:30pm OPEN AIR: PLEASE BRING CHAIR OR BLANKET 0171 344 4444/13 1443 ADVANCE £8.50 (£6.50 CONCESSION) ON NIGHT £9 (£7 CONCESSION)	NURSERY HEIRLOOMS TRADITIONAL ROCKING HORSES Real Leather & Brass Accessories Genuine Horsehair Mane & Tail Hand-made to order Ring: 01372 454722

TELL ME your character, and I will find you a *St Matthew Passion* that fits. And there are plenty of options on the shelves, from devotional Karl Richter (Archiv), stoical Klemperer (EMD) and romantic Mengelberg (Lys), to the grass-roots period instrument approaches of Gardiner (Archiv), Koopman (Erato), Harnoncourt (Teldec) and Bruggen (Philips).

If, however, you are as temperamental, unpredictable and unclassifiable as Hermann Scherchen (1891-1966), then this long-awaited reissue may prove to be the *St Matthew Passion* of your dreams. Stylistically, it is an oddball marriage of Baroque-style buoyancy and post-Wagnerian rhetoric. It is also the sort of radical rethink that you might have expected from a committed socialist and a man who was himself some-

CD REVIEW
BACH: ST MATTHEW PASSION
 RECORDED 1953
 MILLENNIUM CLASSICS
 UMD B0470 (3 CDS)

thing of a musical evangelist. He promoted Mahler when it was politically incorrect to do so, protested Schoenberg when few cared to listen, orchestrated Bach and recorded a vast chunk of mixed repertoire, from Beethoven's symphonies to the "Sabre Dance".

His 1953 mono *St Matthew Passion* is distinguished, first and foremost, by Hugues Cuéod's plangent but powerful Evangelist and Heinz Rehfuss's velvet-voiced Jesus. The opening chorus is one of the most animated on disc, and that at the close, one of the

broadest. The arias are beautifully sung, though Scherchen's speeds are invariably eccentric. Hilde Rissl-Majdan is given 10 minutes to unfold her soulful aria "Können Tränen meiner Wangen" (three minutes more than she takes under Mogens Woldike for Vanguard) though earlier, when she sings in duet with soprano Magda Laszlo, the tempo is disquietingly fast. There is no spurious tradition at work here, no cop-out dependence on inherited formulae, but a fresh, personal and perennially challenging re-interpretation, charged with vitality and uncommonly well engineered for its 45 years. But beware: Westminster recordings (which is what most of these "millennium classics" are) tend not to hang around for long, so snap this up.

ROBERT COWAN

Mediocrity beckons R3

ON THE AIR
 BAYAN NORTHCOTT

DID YOU know that Radio 3 is "underperforming" on Saturday and Sunday afternoons? Or so Matthew Bannister, director of BBC Radio, told his assembled programme-makers a couple of months back. Nor did he mean that the producers were failing to come up with bright ideas, or that the BBC Symphony Orchestra was not playing loudly enough. He meant simply that, per unit cost, too few listeners during those periods were leaving their radios switched on.

No recognition from Bannister of the probability that a significant proportion of those who do choose to switch on – despite the alternative weekend attractions of shopping, football or mowing the lawn – might be all the more committed to the programmes on offer. No acknowledgement of how, for instance, the Sunday lunch time magazine *Music Matters*, intelligently presented by Ivan Hewitt, has helped to focus national debate on such issues as music education and Arts Council funding. No praise for Sunday afternoon's *Spirit of the Age*, that flagship of the early music movement.

For to commend such achievements would be to raise the fraught issue of quality of listening (fraught

because difficult to quantify) as opposed to the (alleged) demand from the majority of listeners for a mere stream of pleasant classical background music. Or, fraught, at least, for a BBC management which at present prefers to hide behind focus-group prejudice and the findings of "lifestyle" audience research. Accordingly, *Spirit of the Age* is being demoted from its weekly hour-long format to just 10 editions a year, and *Music Matters* will disappear altogether next April, its concerns supposedly subsumed into the often ill-focused *Night Waves*.

As for Saturday afternoons: these are to be given over to yet another granophone miscellany in the form of yet another listeners' request programme, plus a youth slot to replace the weekday *Music Machine*, which is being rewarded for its inventive production style by being dropped. And with the money saved, Bannister will be able to buy in a snazzier disc jockey or two for Radio 1. Whether or not planned with malice aforethought, last Monday's Prom interval feature threw a mordant light on the whole matter. Fronted by Mark Russell, co-presenter of *Mixing It*, and entitled *Handel in the Strand*,

Vivaldi on the Phone, this purported to be a look at the history of Baroque music. But from the moment the station-master at Cambridge (on whose platform much of the programme was recorded) owned up to piping jolly music every time he had to announce a delay or cancellation, the real topic turned on why so much background music is Baroque.

It's cheaper than commissioned new music, was one answer; helps to deter such riff-raff as drug-pushers from shopping malls, was another. Brian Eno, who has perpetrated the odd naughtiness on Pachelbel's Canon, suggested it was because the style was formulaic. It fell to Christopher Hogwood, frequent Cambridge passenger and loudspeaker-sabotaging member of Pipedown, to rave against the aural pollution which we are powerless to close our ears to. But nothing could deter the bland assurance of the man from the Muzak Corporation about "creating experiences for our clients" and how a "classical ambience adds value". As for Baroque music, its "constant texture and tempo are more effective in a business environment". Like the BBC?

0171 344 4444

Forthright, rugby-playing lawyer Terence Kyle is to head up a truly global firm. By Linda Tsang

The firm that wants to conquer the world

"HE IS known for calling a spade a bloody shovel, not just a spade," says a colleague. As to his management style, another partner says: "He is much more modern and business-like - there are far fewer meetings. You are just given a goal to achieve and told to achieve it - or else..."

He is not your average City lawyer. The name is Kyle, Terence Kyle, and he is currently the managing partner of City law firm Linklaters & Paines. But from 1 November he will be chief executive of Linklaters & Alliance - an international legal practice that will include leading law firms from Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and Belgium and total almost 2,000 lawyers in 28 offices world-wide. It is a move that has shaken up European legal practice and has stirred other City law firms with designs on expanding in Europe.

The firm's original strategy to expand world-wide was first put together at a partnership retreat in the summer of 1996, and contact was made with the Alliance of European Lawyers, which was made up of firms in Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Belgium, in early 1997. The deal was finalised this July.

Asked whether his "direct" style may have helped in the delicate negotiations which has led to this mega legal practice, Kyle will not be drawn; but the impression is that he quite enjoys the image and anecdotes that picture him as "direct and forthright". He says his reputation "did not have much of a part to play in the negotiations with the Alliance, but there were certainly a lot of tough moments in setting up Linklaters & Alliance - when it might not have gone ahead. It was extremely politically sensitive, negotiating and making decisions on the back of those negotiations."

Given the different cultures of the European firms involved, getting four of the seven original European firms to come on board is, according

to a litigation partner, John Turnbull, "a great achievement, and belies Kyle's reputation. Setting up Linklaters & Alliance needed considerable diplomacy and sensitivity."

Kyle was once the hooker in the school, college and London Irish first XV teams, but plays down the suggestion that it is an aggressive position, stressing instead that it requires the ability to co-ordinate and establish a rapport with the team. Similarly, he is adamant that, avoiding the "F" word (federation), Linklaters & Alliance will be an international legal practice where it is envisaged that all the firms will merge (subject to accounting and other administrative systems being agreed and put in place) as soon as is practicable. In his view, this will be sooner rather than later.

He'd had no deliberate goal of becoming more involved on the management side than the legal side, nor to take what will be a globe-trotting executive role. However, he says, "There was a tacit assumption that Linklaters would provide the person to take up the four-year appointment as chief executive."

Kyle, who is now 52, was born and educated in Belfast and later read classics and law at Cambridge. "There are no hidden QCs in the family," he says. "I decided that I wanted to do law when I was in sixth-form college."

He joined Linklaters & Paines in 1970, with six others, as an articled clerk. Of his contemporaries, two are current managing partners at other leading law firms - John Rix at Allen & Overy, and Roger Birky at Norton Rose - and there is also his colleague Anthony Cann, head of corporate law at Linklaters.

Kyle stayed with the firm on qualification, becoming a partner in 1979, and heading up the firm's International Financial Services department in 1989. Kyle became managing partner in 1995 and gave up legal work. As a partner comments, "there was nothing as vulgar



Terence Kyle, Linklaters & Alliance's chief executive - as of 1 November

Neville Elder

as an election". Kyle was the front-runner after a considerable consultation process, and once he became managing partner, Linklaters effectively became his only client.

Both Kyle and the firm's senior partner Charles Allen-Jones (together they are the "Scary" and "Push" of the firm) are credited with taking Linklaters from the grey men of the City to the global player it is now, and that includes expansion into Latin America and moves to hire US lawyers to retain their pole position as lawyers in the capital markets sector.

As one in-house lawyer has commented, the firm was seen as "technically great, but boring - the Steve Davis of the legal world"; but Kyle says Linklaters & Alliance is "certainly not the Hurricane Higgins" of that world. Instead, he considers the brand will stand for quality legal services for clients globally. Even before the T's were

crossed and the Is dotted in the link-up with the Alliance law firms, Linklaters had a redesign courtesy of Saatchi, having already established that it had its own distinct corporate identity.

But it is not alone in global expansion. Another major player in international legal terms, Clifford Chance, has already announced its intention to double its lawyers, in mainland Europe from 500 to 1,000 by the millennium. Senior partner Keith Clark comments: "Kyle is the logical choice as chief executive. He is a good operator with lots of energy and a no-nonsense approach, and a strong personality. He will be very effective. More generally, the issue is the degree of authority lying in that management position, and the degree of pooled authority needed to drive Linklaters & Alliance."

Kyle concedes that his new role will be a challenge. Management of Linklaters & Alliance will be run

from London and Brussels, and although there are rumours of streamlining the new firm, "there is no reason why you would have to indulge in wholesale bloodletting. To be credible, you have to have critical mass, and there is always the financial point that the risk can be spread more broadly."

In the meantime, he is on the lookout for firms to plug the gaps where the three firms in France, Spain and Italy did not come on board.

Linklaters & Alliance is also expanding elsewhere. It recently took a 10-lawyer team from New York firm White & Case, and is actively seeking to expand its US practice in the finance field, and there is scope for expansion in other jurisdictions, such as Poland and the Czech Republic. Kyle says, only half jokingly, "World domination as a business philosophy is one I share with a number of my partners. It's one I had in the Eighties, and still have."

An end to the office romance

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



DEBORAH ANNETTS

YOUR EYES meet across a crowded room at a social gathering organised by your employer. There is a quiver of recognition. Your breathing becomes shallow and your hands tremble. You know that this man was meant for you and that you are going to have his baby.

Twelve months later, you are sitting in a solicitor's office crying your eyes out and trying to work out where it all went wrong. You have been sacked and, without a job, you now face an uncertain future.

It may seem unlikely, but in today's workplace, the jump from the first scenario to the next is all too common. It is a truism that people are spending an increasing proportion of their lives in the workplace. Although the Working Time Directive will soon be law, this has not stopped the workplace from becoming the setting where people spend most of their lives. The difficulty of finding a suitable mate in the city means that, increasingly, employees are looking to their employer to provide them not only with a job and career advancement, but also their soul mate - or at least an extramarital affair.

Relationships at work are not just a problem for the Bill Clintons of this world. Over the last few years, in my capacity as an employment solicitor I have advised many employees, in particular women, who have lost their jobs as a result of "intimate relationships" which blossomed and then combust in the workplace. Sometimes, that wreckage can lead to the destruction of company property or involve self-inflicted injuries. To guard against such situations, the employer must be careful to take appropriate steps to ensure that a safe working environment is maintained for all their employees.

In other instances, the problem lies not so much with the employees, but rather with management. It is still possible for senior employees not to appreciate that, in their role as managers, they must be particularly careful. I have had cases where senior managers have overstepped the mark and become obsessed with an employee. When that employee has rebuffed the senior manager's advances, this has led to trumped-up disciplinary charges, and ultimately, to dismissal of the junior party.

Of course, when a man or

woman is embroiled in a set of circumstances where it looks as if, through no fault of their own, they will lose their job as a result of passions running inappropriately high in the workplace, they can seek advice from a law centre, a Citizens Advice Bureau or an employment solicitor. If an employee has suffered adverse treatment which relates back to a personal relationship in the workplace, there may well be grounds for bringing a sex discrimination claim.

Ultimately, if things get totally out of hand and the employee loses the job, then, provided he or she has the necessary two years' service, they can bring a claim for unfair dismissal in the industrial tribunal. There may also be another opportunity to claim sex discrimination. As any lawyer will tell you, discrimination cases, although difficult, can be extremely lucrative because there is no upper limit on the compensation that can be awarded. It is envisaged that by the end of next year, there will also be no upper limit on the amount of compensation for unfair dismissal and the length of service required in order to bring an unfair dismissal will be just one year.

On the face of it, although office romances may seem attractive, they also carry the seeds of destruction. Although you can seek justice via the industrial tribunal system, it is still the case that many claims take months to be heard in the tribunal.

So, the best advice must be that the next time your eyes meet across a crowded office, you should return your gaze to your desk, take a deep breath, dial 192 and get the telephone number for Dateline.

Deborah Annetts is a partner and head of the employment unit at Stephens Innocent

Getting results from unsatisfactory lawyers

ANN ABRAHAM, the Ombudsman appointed last year to oversee the handling of complaints against solicitors and barristers, must sometimes despair of the profession.

She is currently in correspondence with a solicitor who is arguing that he is not a solicitor. In a desperate attempt to escape a ruling made against him by the Ombudsman, he is trying to prove that, for the purposes of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, he is outside the jurisdiction of the Legal Services Ombudsman.

"This," explains Abraham, "is an extraordinary example of defensiveness. But if he had just written a cheque, that would have saved us all a lot of time."

The case itself is remarkably trivial. A client wants to retrieve some documents from the solicitor, and the solicitor is demanding payment for going through his files.

Abraham says: "It is those sort of examples that may mean that I, and the Government, and opinion-formers, lose patience with the profession, and self-regulation starts to look a bit shaky."

But it will also be the high number of complaints which will determine the fate of the profession. At the moment, they are breaking new records. Between 1997 and February 1998, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS) received 3,000 complaints a month, an increase of 30 per cent. And, in her own report,

Complaints against solicitors are rising, and it's high time to lay down the law. By Robert Verkaik

published at the end of June, Abraham found that complaints against solicitors now averaged one for every three practicing solicitors.

Both the OSS and Ann Abraham are devoting much of their efforts towards promoting consumer satisfaction at the earliest possible stage.

One of the problems is that, when solicitors get complaints, they react like solicitors - any other service would be trying to satisfy the customer

From the beginning of this year, all solicitors must have an in-house complaints handling procedure in place. Clients should know that, as a general rule, the OSS will only consider complaints which have first been dealt with by the firm's own complaints handling mechanism. One exception to this is where the complaint is one of misconduct. "There is no way we would put someone through that, and we would want to know about it as soon as possible," says an OSS spokeswoman.

Abraham says that the idea

of proper in-house complaints procedure is not to create a "Byzantine system" that obstructs the resolution of complaints, but one that gives the complainant a genuine opportunity to settle the dispute.

The OSS is particularly keen to address the issue of costs, which is one of the main

sources of complaints, and one that lends itself to being resolved through the in-house complaints procedure. Abraham adds: "Already, I can add my name to the list of those who have been exasperated by the, at times, incomprehensible refusal of solicitors to make any serious attempt to tell clients how much their case is going to cost." While the OSS cannot investigate claims for compensation above £1,000, it can make unlimited reductions to a solicitor's costs.

But the OSS cannot deal directly with negligence claims,

review the outcome of a court case, or review a decision by the Legal Aid Board.

Mariene Winfield, the senior policy officer at the National Consumer Council, says that the profession continues to adopt an intransigent position: "One of the biggest problems is that, when solicitors get complaints, they behave like solicitors. Anyone else providing a service would be trying to satisfy the customer."

As a result, too many cases go too far. What begins as a series of trivial errors, ends in a case for negligence. Peter Wyld, a partner at law firm Irwin Mitchell, has a reputation as a lawyer who likes to take cases against incompetent or negligent solicitors. Most of these cases involve either out-price conveyancing or court actions which have been struck out for delay. "Solicitors who are still on the record [in court cases] when a case gets struck out are likely to be at fault, even if the client should also carry some of the blame," Wyld says that because clients are often not aware of how long a case should run, the first time that they know there is a serious difficulty is when the court strikes out the action.

Surprisingly, Wyld's largest source of solicitors' negligence work is from solicitors themselves - either those who are the subject of the complaint, or those who do not wish to act against a fellow solicitor in the same town.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COUNTY: Greenwich Magistrates' Court, 9 Blackheath Road, Greenwich, SE10
HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday 8 September 1998 at 10.30am
PREMISES: Off Licence, 424 Downham Way, Downham, Bromley
APPLICANT: Francesco Romano
ADDRESS: 122 Rosedale Avenue, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH
TRADE OR CALLING: General Manager
TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply to the Licensing Sessions for the said Division to be held at the place date and time shown above for the provisional grant to him of a Justices Licence authorising him to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption on or off the premises.
DATED: 17 August 1998
PAINES & CO
Barristers at Law, 154 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DQ
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicant

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COUNTY: Greenwich Magistrates' Court, 9 Blackheath Road, Greenwich, SE10
HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday 8 September 1998 at 10.30am
PREMISES: The Premier & Piano, 1 Lower Terrace, Blackheath, SE3
APPLICANT: Odette Lara Nyathi Francis
ADDRESS: 25A Blackheath Road, Greenwich, SE10 8PE
TRADE OR CALLING: Manager
TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply to the Licensing Sessions for the said Division to be held at the place date and time shown above for the provisional grant to her of a Justices Licence authorising her to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption on or off the premises.
DATED: 17 August 1998
PAINES & CO
Barristers at Law, 154 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DQ
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicant

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COUNTY: The Law Courts, Westminster, SW19
HEARING DATE/TIME: 9 September 1998 at 10.30am
PREMISES: The Off Licence, 4/5 Fulcrum Parade, London Road, Mitcham
APPLICANT: Thomas David Doolley
ADDRESS: 20 Thriss Crescent, High Wycombe, Bucks
TRADE OR CALLING: Manager
TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply to the Licensing Sessions for the said Division to be held at the place date and time shown above for the provisional grant to him of a Justices Licence authorising him to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption on or off the premises.
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NEW FILMS

LE BOSSU (15)

Director: Philippe de Broca
Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem.
Fabrice Lucchini makes a supremely elegant villain. Vincent Perez leaps higher and bither like a latter-day Douglas Fairbanks, while Daniel Craig's character seems like a cross between Cyrano and D'Artagnan. He tends the abandoned young baby who soon blossoms into the beautiful Aurere (Marie Gillain). Who cares about the clichés when the storytelling is so vivid?
Curzon Mayfair, Richmond Picturehouse

GADJO DILLO (15)

Director: Kiyoshi Kurosawa
Stephane (Romain Duris), a young Parisian, straps down a long, icy road, somewhere in rural Romania, on a quest for Nora Luca, the gypsy singer whose music he discovered through his father. After a drunken night with Izidor, an old man he meets crying and cursing in the snow, Stephane learns gradually about the habits, superstitions and, above all, the music of his gypsy hosts. There is a warmth and humour to the storytelling, and an integrity that pushes this film way beyond being mere sentimental travelogue.
Remor

THE LIFE OF STUFF (U)

Director: Simon Donald
A profoundly depressing Glasgow gangland drama. Performances and direction are pitched at such an overwrought level from the very first scene that the film doesn't have anywhere to go. The claustrophobic settings (almost the entire story takes place in a deserted warehouse) don't help. Nor does the melodramatic sub-John Barry music. Ewen Bremner and Gina McKee do their best as two hostages trapped in the basement, but the shock tactics (explosions, torture, ferocious bloodletting) do little but leave you numb.
NFT

METROLAND (18)

Director: Philip Saville
In this suburban morality tale, Chris (Christian Bale) is festering somewhere in the commuter belt, playing happy families, when his old friend Tony (Lee Ross) thinks that he ought to be out having fun. Most of the film is set in the 1970s, but the period is not reconstructed with any great verve. There is plenty that's likeable - the late-1960s Paris interlude, in which Chris acts up as a Left Bank boulevardier, is very endearing. But back on home soil, the storytelling is less assured, and on the whole, Saville shows a dispiriting lack of ambition.
Metro, Odeon Kensington, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE X-FILES (15)

Director: Rob Bowman
Fans of The X-Files television series have been heard to complain recently that the show's inherent approach to conspiracy theories had taken some of the novelty and lustre out of the subject. In which case, The X-Files as it appears on film isn't likely to offer any compensation. But you can't deny that it looks splendid on the big screen: the director Rob Bowman and his director of photography, Ward Russell, have concocted some awe-inspiring compositions. David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully respectively, and the screenplay (by the series' creator Chris Carter) gives them a meaty conundrum to chew on, involving a shady secret government, a deadly virus from outer space and the world's oldest living organism. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging, through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness.
ABC Boker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey and Geoffrey McNabb

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)
A perfect antidote to the bombast of Armageddon can be found in Michael Curtiz's merry and inventive romp, one of the greatest swashbucklers ever made.
Rio Cinema

ARMAGEDDON (12)
This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth.
ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE AVENGERS (12)
Ralph Fiennes does the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a turtleneck as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kilt as August De Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather.
ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)
Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur. Ideal for the more understanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for adults.
UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE CASTLE (15)
When his family home is threatened with demolition to make way for an airport, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caton) decides to fight back and stand up for his rights.
Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)
Worried that her husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family wants to accompany her to Manhattan to confront him.
Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

DR DOLITTLE (PG)
The thought of Eddie Murphy performing within the restrictions of a PG film may not be a promising one, but Dr Dolittle shows that his talents are surprisingly pliable.
Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

EVE'S BAYOU (15)
Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana locations that have been devalued by too many Southern Comfort ads. Despite some intuitive observations, this feels for the most part, like reheated Fried Green Tomatoes.
Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

FIRELIGHT (15)
Starchy 19th-century melodrama starring Sophie Marceau as a Swiss governess who bears a child Marceau as a Swiss governess who bears a child Marceau as a Swiss governess who bears a child
Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

GANG RELATED (15)
A new thriller which gives a few welcome twists to the formulaic routine of drive-by shootings and live-baitin' homeboys.
Virgin Trocadero

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)
The routine level of so much in The Gingerbread Man disappoints, but odd fragments remind you that

here we have a great director (Robert Altmann) marking time.
ABC Swiss Centre

GODZILLA (PG)
The team that cooked up Independence Day is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. Unfortunately, in this case, their light touch has deserted them.
Empire Leicester

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)
Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic American high-school musical starring John Travolta as the slick haired heart-breaker.
Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

HANA-BI (18)
Violent yet elegiac portraits of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Metro

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)
After years of churning out sub-standard animated features, this sprightly, re-released adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story began a string of hits for the newly rejuvenated Disney Studios.
Pleasant jazz holiday fare.
Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village

LOST IN SPACE (PG)
William Hurt stars as a frosty scientist who journeys with his family into space to save the Earth from environmental destruction and, of course, learns how to bond with his kids in the process.
ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)
A warm, subtle comedy starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor (Jason Priestley).
ABC Piccadilly, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAAMELOT (U)
The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and courtesy of the inevitable Céline Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits.
UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MAJORETTES IN SPACE: FIVE GAY TALES FROM FRANCE (18)
See The Independent Recommends, above.
ICA Cinema

PSYCHO (15)
See The Independent Recommends, above.
Chelsea Cinema

THE THIEF (15)
Writer-director Pavel Chuldrak tries for that brand of unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle in Lacombe Lucien. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off.
ABC Swiss Centre

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a hopelessly romantic wedding singer (Saturday Night Live's Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else.
Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

ZERO EFFECT (15)
Thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, Tab and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case.
Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

YOU ONLY have one more week to catch the most original film currently on show in London. Majorettes in Space: Five Gay Tales from France showcases exciting work from young French directors, the best of it by Francois Ozon, represented by two shorts: A Little Death is the affecting story of a photographer who finds an unusual way of bonding with his dying father; the very funny A Summer Dress concerns a teenager bored with his boyfriend's "stupid tag songs". Ozon is a compassionate, hugely talented artist - look out for the first showing of his debut feature, a black comedy called Sittom, at the Edinburgh Film Festival on Monday.
ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (0171-930 3647)

Hitchcock's Psycho (above) now looks like a textbook lesson in how to pre-empt, manipulate and booby-trap an audience's expectations. The first part of the movie is my favourite - the sense of barely sustained banality beneath which immoral acts are being conceived.
On general release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

ALEX LOWE's one-man-show, The Wrestling - based on Simon Garfield's book of the same name - is a humorous, affectionate tribute to a toppled giant of a sport which manages to avoid sentimentality even as it headlocks you into a state of nostalgia. Anecdotes about Kendo Nagasaki, Mick McManus, Big Daddy (right) and many more delivered with ring-side fervour.
Pleasance, Edinburgh (0131-556 6550) 12.10pm
A Little Requiem for Kantor pays homage to the legendary Polish director Tadeusz Kantor: an oddly enchanting tangle of bandage, broken umbrellas, muttered laments and a soaring classical score.
Demarco European Art Foundation, Edinburgh (0131-556 8409) 7.30pm

Pop Tim Perry

ONE OF THE Flux Festival's most anticipated evenings comes this weekend with two shows by Nick Cave (right). With the Bad Seeds absent, it's still bound to be an inspiring mood and intense show. Cave will be playing solo at the piano and interspersing songs with spoken-word selections. Support comes from sometime Cave collaborators the Dirty Three, another dark, intense sound from down under.
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (0131-668 2019) today & tomorrow, 8pm
Another Flux event pairs New Jersey's indie-rock institution Yo La Tengo with David Thomas, of Pere Ubu cult status. Yo La Tengo are coming up to their 15th year together, and while they might never make the absolute big time, they should never be written off. One of their many loyal fans is Hal Hartley, who directed their last video, while film buffs will know them as the musicians who played the Velvet Underground in a Shot Andy Warhol.
Jaffa Cafe, Edinburgh (0131-226 5138) Sun 8pm

Classical Duncan Hadfield

SIR DONALD TOVEY is nowadays perhaps best remembered as an eminent musicologist. Yet the Reid Professor of Music in Edinburgh from 1914 until his death in 1940 was also a virtuoso pianist and a composer in his own right. A Tribute Concert takes place on his home soil today with Martyn Brabbins conducting the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. The programme includes piano duets and the Piano and Cello concertos, with Richard Goode (right).
Usher Hall, Edinburgh (0131-473 2000) 4.30pm
The BBC Philharmonic, conducted by Vasily Sinaisky, joins pianist Howard Shelley for a curious hybrid: featured Proms composer Karol Szymanowski's Fourth and last Symphony; the Sinfonia Concertante; part concert, part symphony. Shostakovich's 13th Symphony, Babu Yar, completes the concert, continuing this summer's ongoing exploration of "political" music, with its texts by Yevtushenko openly attacking the Stalinist regime.
Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-589 8212) 7.30pm



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0171-935 9772) @ Baker Street
The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm
The X-Files 12.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0171-930 0631) @ Piccadilly
Circus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm
Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly
Circus Lolla 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8pm
Love And Death On Long Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Hana-Bi 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Gingerbread Man 1.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
The Ill-Willies 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Kurt & Courtney 6pm, 8.30pm
The Thief 8.45pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
Armageddon 12.00pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican
The Avengers 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Cat Women Of The Moon 8.45pm
The Incredible Shrinking Man 8.45pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Psych 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common
Armageddon 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
Freight 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park Le Bossu
12.15pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Armageddon 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
The X-Files 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
The Castle 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm
Godzilla 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.15pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Armageddon 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
The Avengers 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
The X-Files 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

ICA CINEMA
(0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross
Majorettes In Space: Five Gay Tales From France 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

METRO
(0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly
Circus Leicester Square Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Metroland 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON MINEMA
(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge
Firelight 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Armageddon 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 8pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town
Armageddon 1.55pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm, 11.30pm
The Avengers 12.00pm, 2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm, 11.35pm
The Daytrippers 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.25pm, 11.50pm
Godzilla 11.40am, 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, 11.20pm
Lost In Space 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0181-315 4214) @ High Street
Armageddon 1.45pm, 4.50pm, 7.55pm, 10.55pm, 12.10pm
The Avengers 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm, 12.20am
The Daytrippers 7.20pm, 9.40pm
Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm
The Little Mermaid 11.40am, 1.50pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.15pm, 10.25pm
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.30pm, 9.40pm, 11.50pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm, 11.55pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
Armageddon 1.35pm, 5.05pm, 8.10pm, 11.40pm
The Avengers 12.00pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm, 11.45pm
Dr Dolittle 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Godzilla 11.35pm, 1.45pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.15pm, 10.25pm
The X-Files 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
Eve's Bayou 1.45pm, 4.50pm, 7.55pm, 10.55pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Titanic 12.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
Armageddon 1.45pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Avengers 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm
The Big Lebowski 4.55pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm
The Castle 4.55pm, 6.45pm, 8.35pm, 10.25pm
Godzilla 1.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 11.40am, 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 7.50pm, 9.50pm, 11.50pm

ODEON WEST END
(0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
Lost In Space 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 5.00pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm, 11.50pm
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm, 11.50pm

PLAZA
(0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly
Circus Dr Dolittle 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.50pm
Eve's Bayou 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm
Anniversary Edition 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm
Sliding Doors 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
Dance Of The Wind 1.25pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm
Gadjo 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

RIO CINEMA
(0171-224 6677) @ Dalston
Kingdom The Adventures Of Robin Hood 11.30am Dr Dolittle 6.30pm, 8.45pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-737 2121/733 2229) @ Brixton
Armageddon 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.35pm
The Daytrippers 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm, 11.25pm
Dr Dolittle 2.25pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm, 10.50pm, 12.50pm
Flicks In The Pocket (I Pugn In Tasc) 3.10pm
He Got Game 11.25pm
Lost In Space 8.50pm, 11.30pm
The X-Files 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-486 0036) @ Baker Street
Armageddon 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Firelight 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-228 3520) @ Angel/Nighbury
The Daytrippers 3.50pm, 7.05pm
Love And Death On Long Island 5.05pm, 8.05pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0171-792 3332) @ Bayswater
Armageddon 1.1am, 1.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8pm, 8.50pm
The Avengers 11.45am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.50pm

BARBING ODEON
(0181-507 8444) @ Barbican
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.55pm
The Avengers 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
Barney's Great Adventure 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm, 10.50pm, 12.50pm

BARKING ODEON
(0181-507 8444) @ Barking
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.55pm
The Avengers 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
Barney's Great Adventure 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm, 10.50pm, 12.50pm

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE

11.20am Dr Dolittle 11.30am, 1.40pm, 2.50pm, 3.50pm, 5.05pm, 6.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm
Eve's Bayou 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
Godzilla 12.00pm, 6.10pm
The Little Mermaid 11.10am, 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, 11.20pm
Lost In Space 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.40pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
(0870-9070710) @ Sloane Square/South Kensington
Armageddon 2pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm
Barney's Great Adventure 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Daytrippers 7.20pm, 9.40pm
Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm
The Little Mermaid 11.40am, 1.50pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.15pm, 10.25pm
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.30pm, 9.40pm, 11.50pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-9070711) @ South Kensington
Armageddon 1.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm
The Avengers 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm
Barney's Great Adventure 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.40pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET
(0870-9070712) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Daytrippers 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm, 11.30pm
Firelight 6.15pm
Metroland 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Zero Effect 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-9070716) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Avengers 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm, 11.10pm
Barney's Great Adventure 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 7.60pm, 9.70pm, 11.80pm
City Of Angels 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm
Dr Dolittle 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm, 11.40pm
Eve's Bayou 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm, 12.00pm
Firelight 6.15pm
Metroland 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Zero Effect 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

WARRNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4347) @ Leicester Square
The Avengers 11am, 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.50pm, 6pm, 7.10pm, 8.20pm, 9.30pm, 10.40pm, 11.50pm
The Big Lebowski 3.50pm, 6.40pm
Blade Runner 11.20pm
Bonnie & Clyde 1.30pm, 6.30pm
City Of Angels 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm
The X-Files 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm, 12.30pm

WARRNER VILLAGE
(0181-698 3806) @ Piccadilly
Armageddon 7.

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoa
Ball. 9.00 Mark Goodie: 11.30
Radio 1 Roadshow: Simon Mayo
presents the show from Torquay,
with performances from 911 and
the Beautiful South. 12.30 News-
beat. 12.45 Jo Whalley. 2.00
M.A. Radcliffe: New music gub-
bins from Mark and Lard, the
Cheesily Cheerful Chart Challenge
and Harry White's Passion Wagon.
4.00 Pearla. 5.45 News-
beat. 6.00 The Essential
Selection: With the soundtrack to
the weekend. 8.30 Dance Party.
10.30 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap
Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverid-
er. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Jimmy Young: Talking to the peo-
ple who make the news. Phone
the comment line on 0500 288291.
Lines open from 11.30am to 11.5pm.
2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn:
Including the Mystery Voice com-
petition. 7.00 Glamorous Nights:
the Ivor Novello Story. 7.30 Friday
Night Music: Introduced by
Richard Baker from the Hippo-
drome, Golders Green, London.
9.45 Saturday Night and Sunday
Morning. 9.50 Listen to the Band.
10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30
Sheridan Morley. 12.05 Charles
Novak. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week.
11.00 Edinburgh International
Festival 98.
11.50 Sir Donald Tovey.
12.30 Concert, part 2.
1.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Rachmaninov.
2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R) See Pick
of the Day.
4.00 Voices and Viola.
4.15 Music Machine. (R)
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 BBC Proms 98. Tonight,
a programme of music with a polit-
ical message: Tchaikovsky's tri-
umphalism, Szymanowski's
celebration of peace, and
Shostakovich's thinly veiled attack
on Stalinism. Sergei Aleksashkin

PICK OF THE DAY

THE BILLING for The Orchestra
(2.15pm R4) describes it as "Jean
Anouilh's comic masterpiece".
However, if you can stand Felix
Cross's twiddly-widdly music, this
portrait of conflict behind the
harmony in a small provincial
orchestra makes an intriguingly
uneasy comedy. Compare and
contrast Shostakovich's music at
different periods in two Proms.
The revolutionary Symphony

No 3 of 1929, subtitled "The First
of May", features in a repeat of
last Wednesday's Prom (2pm
R3). The main work in tonight's
Prom (7.30pm R3) is the grim
Symphony No 13, *Babi Yar*,
written more than 30 years later
and drawing upon poems about a
German massacre of Russian
Jews. Vasily Sinaisky conducts
the BBC Philharmonic.
ROBERT HANKS



(bass), Howard Shelley (piano),
Leeds Festival Chorus, Huddersfield
Choral Society, BBC
Philharmonic/Vasily Sinaisky.
Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture. Szy-
manowski: Symphony No 4 (Sintonia
concertante). See Pick of the Day.
8.20 Post as Witness. Prof Robin
Milner-Gulland and composer Ger-
ard McBurney discuss the signifi-
cance of the collaboration
between Shostakovich and the
young Yevgeny Yevtushenko.
8.40 Concert, part 2.
Shostakovich: Symphony No 13
(Babi Yar).
9.45 Postscript. Five poets read
a newly commissioned verse letter
to a poet from the past they ad-
mire. In the last of the series,
American poet Mark Doty reads
his Letter to Walt Whitman. (R)
10.00 Stockhausen at 70. To ce-
lebrate the seventieth birthday to-
morrow of Karlheinz Stockhausen,
Mark Russell assesses the work
and career of this most influen-
tial and provocative 20th-century
composer. With contributions from
Pierre Boulez, Rolf Gehlhaar,
Jonathan Harvey, Suzanne
Stephens and Stockhausen him-
self. Music includes 'Kontakte'
(1958-60), an early masterpiece,
performed by members of Psapha
- Richard Casey (piano) and
Tim Williams (percussion) - with
electronics by Stuart Innes.
11.30 Take Me Back to New Or-
leans.
12.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Berlioz. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.0MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Desert Island Discs.
9.45 The Calendar.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Strictly Dancehall.
11.30 Like They've Never Been
Gone.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 The Write Stuff.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Orche-
stra. See Pick of the Day.
3.00 NEWS: Check Up.
3.30 Sleuths. (R)
3.45 Feedback.
4.00 NEWS: Open Book.
4.30 The Message.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 RTPP.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. John Wilson pre-
sents the night's arts show.
7.45 Dear Jayne Brown. 'Corre-
sponding with the Enemy' by Eliza-
beth Proud. With Jill Balcon,
Stella Gonet and Julie Cox (5/5).
8.00 NEWS: Diverse Perspectives.
The second of two pro-
grammes in which Yvonne
Alibhai-Brown invites her audience
and guests to look at contem-
porary issues from the perspective
of different cultures in Britain to-
day. 'The Perfect Match'. Men ad-
vertising for a wife on an
Asian-British radio station often
seem to be seeking a specific
type of woman. What attributes

do different cultures in Britain look
for in a partner?
8.45 Letter from America. Alistair
Cooke with another slice of Ameri-
cana.
9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: The
Dish. By Paul Hillman. Bette
Bourne stars as China Dish, the
role he played on stage to great
critical acclaim. The intimate radio
version provides an equally funny
and chilling insight into the dying
days of a Birmingham bed and
breakfast that has seen both joy
and Aids. Harris.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime. Like Wa-
ter for Chocolate. By Laura Es-
quivel, abridged by Pat Soterlou
(5/10). (R)
11.00 Late Tackle. More late-night
conversation from the world of
sport.
11.30 The Syndicate.
12.00 News.
12.30 Late Book: Mood Indigo.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 Leisure Report.
5.56 - 6.00 Weather.
RADIO 4 LW
(98kHz)
(98kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines.
Shipping. 5.54 - 6.30 Shipping.
RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

ONE OF the crucial games in the
British Championship was
Jonathan Speelman's loss with
White against Nigel Short. Speel-
man played one of his favourite
innocuous opening systems with
N3, g3, Bg2 and d4, later played
what looked like a temporary pawn
sacrifice with e4 but somehow con-
trived to regain the pawn. Short
made the whole strategy
look very poor, but having now
seen some earlier games from the
event, I begin to understand what
Speelman was up to. In the fol-
lowing game, he scored a fine vic-
tory by following through a very
similar idea.

On this occasion after 9.Ng5
there was never any risk of White
not regaining his pawn, and when
he did so, he had a nice advantage
in central space. 15.d5 was a the-
matic breakthrough, when
15...exd5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Qxd5
would leave both the bishop on h5
and pawn on a7 under attack. As a
result, White gained powerful pres-
sure and the option of either push-
ing his passed d-pawn with d6 or
weakening Black's Q-side pawns
with dxc6.

The sacrifice with 28.f5 must
have been an easy decision to take.
With Black's bishop incarcerated on
h7 and White obtaining a passed
pawn on d7 protected by the knight
on c5, the only question was how
long Black could survive. 34...Ra8
was a sorry move to have to make
to meet the threat of Re8 but Black
was soon put out of his misery.

White: Jonathan Speelman
Black: Richard Pert

British Championship 1998

1 Nb5	18 Ract Qa5
2 g3 Bg4	20 Nd6 Qc7
3 Bg2 Nd7	21 Qa5 c5
4 d4 c6	22 Nd4 Rf8
5 0-0 e6	23 d4 c4
6 c4 Bb6	24 Qx7 Ne5
7 Qb3 Rb8	25 g4 Bg5
8 e4 dxe4	26 f4 Nd5
9 Ng5 Ng6	27 d6 Qd8
10 Ne3 0-0	28 f5 Nxc1
11 Be3 Be7	29 Rxc1 Bh7
12 h3 Bb5	30 Rxd1 b5
13 Ngx4 Nxe4	31 d7 Rc7
14 Nxc4 h6	32 Nc5 Ra7
15 d5 exd5	33 Re1 Qb8
16 cxd5 Bb6	34 Bc6 Ra8
17 Bf4 Be7	35 Bxa8 Rxa8
18 Bxc7 Qxc7	36 Nb7 resigns

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

THERE WAS a good struggle on
this deal. West found a far-sighted
defence but South's guns were just
too big for him.
East certainly did his best to
muddy the waters when, after two
passes, he opened Three Spades.
In practice, South overcalled with
Five Clubs and was raised to the
small slam by his partner. I doubt
that I would have reached this con-
tract; I am quite sure that I would
have preferred Three No-trumps to
Five Clubs, but then West might
have competed with Four Spades.)
West led the jack of spades
against Six Clubs and, after winning
and drawing trumps, declarer led
D2 from hand. The contract would
have been straightforward on any
3-2 heart break, but there was no
rush to test the suit. Now it was
West's turn to shine. Look what
happens if he automatically plays
low: Dummy's ten forces East's
king and West is left in sole control
of both of the red suits. Then the
other top spade and the rest of the
trumps finish him.

North-South game; dealer West

North		East	
♠ 4 2		♠ K 9 8 7 6 5	
♥ A Q 4 3		♥ Q 10 3	
♦ Q 10 3		♦ 10 9 6 2	
♣ 10 9 6 2		♣ 10 9 6 2	

West

West		East	
♠ J 10 3		♠ K 9 8 7 6 5	
♥ J 10 9 7		♥ Q 2	
♦ A J 6 5 4		♦ K 9 8 7	
♣ 5		♣ 7 3	

South

South		East	
♠ A Q		♠ K 8 6 5	
♥ Q 2		♥ 10	
♦ A K Q J 8 4		♦ 10	

ing squeeze but South found a neat
counter-attack. He won the heart
lead in hand and crossed to ♠ Q,
exposing the not unexpected 4-1
break. Then, placing East with
♦ K, he led ♠ Q from dummy. East
covered and South ruffed. Now
poor West was again left to look
after both the hearts and the dia-
monds and, when declarer played
off all of his black suit winners, he
was forced to surrender. It was an
elegant demonstration of what is
termed "transferring the menace".

PUZZLE

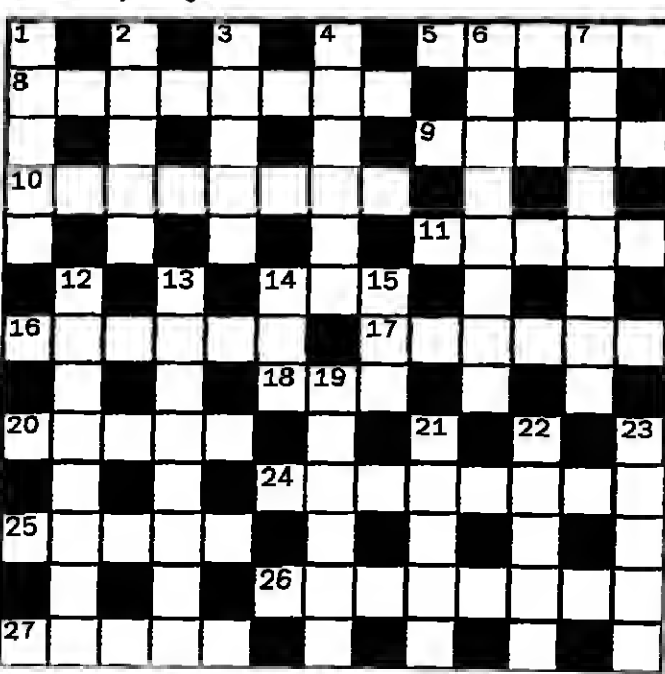
TIME FOR some more "26 L of the
A" (Letters of the Alphabet)
teasers. What are the missing
words in the following:

Yesterday's answer:
You must turn over the circle
evidently, because it might have an
even number on the back and the
two (because it might have a circle
on the back, which would invalidate
the hypothesis). It is not neces-
sary to see what is on the other side
of the seven - whether square or
circle, it makes no difference to
the truth of the statement given.

1 M M I A M P
2 S B P F A N E
3 C H H H
8 Y A D F B F U T C A N N
88 T F L in B
(Answers on Monday)

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3695 Friday 21 August



ACROSS

- Unclouded (5)
- Pit, in a theatre (8)
- Swindle (5)
- Reserved (8)
- Threescore (5)
- Cricket extra (3)
- Palm fibre used in baskets (6)
- Confederacy (6)
- Attempt (3)
- Difficult question (5)
- Large pachyderm (8)
- Moorland (5)
- Furtive (8)
- Speech supposedly unheard by other actors (5)

DOWN

- Surplus to requirements (5)
- Talk boastfully (5)
- Clemency (5)
- After-dinner drink (6)
- Affectedly superior (3-2-3)
- Prickly-leaved plant (8)
- Titled lady (8)
- Feigned (8)
- Cricket club? (3)
- Cathedral city (3)
- Tell (6)
- Utter (5)
- Planet (5)
- Remains (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Fillers, 2 Offer (Philosophy), 3 Night, 4 Average, 10 Eldersdown, 12 Eve, 13
Candle, 14 Guller, 17 Pts, 18 Bullshit, 20 Bunkies, 21 Ofese, 23 Endow, 24 Ramack, DOWN:
1 Fence, 2 Lure, 3 Eat, 4 Sillies, 5 Ocean, 6 Flings, 7 Re-cleat, 11 Dashed, 13
Capable, 15 Unicorn, 16 Closer, 18 Below, 19 Check, 22 En.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

DAVID COPPERFIELD (Opus Sky
Movies Screen 1), the novel by
Charles Dickens about an orphan
who grows up to be a writer, has
been transferred to the screen
many times. George Cukor made
perhaps the most famous version
in 1934, with WC Fields as
Micawber and Basil Rathbone as
Mr Murdstone. John Sullivan, the
creator of *Only Fools and Horses*,
is now adapting the book for the
BBC, with David Jason, Nicholas
Lyndhurst and Pauline Quirke all

being suggested for 1970. This
glossy reading from 1970 boasts a
strong cast with Susan Hampshire,
Richard Attenborough, Laurence
Olivier and Edith Evans.
Adrian Lynne's *Hush Hour* Shoot
to Thrill (10pm Discovery)
concentrates on the work of Marc
Woff, an aerial stunt coordinator.
He's been responsible for some
thrilling sequences in recent
movies, including the jet-fighter
scenes for *Tomorrow Never Dies*.
JAMES RAMPTON



(983063), 4.30 Top Marques (983067),
5.00 First Flights (983068), 5.30 Jura-
can (127059), 6.00 Wildlife SOS (983062),
6.30 Beneath the Blue (983067), 7.00
Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers
(983067), 8.00 Lonely Planet (983067),
8.30 Medical Detectives (983067), 9.30
Medical Detectives (983068), 10.00
Adrian Rush Hour Shoot to Thrill
(983068), See Pick of the Day 11.00 A
Century of Warfare (983068), 12.00 First
Flights (983068), 12.30 Top Marques
(983067), 1.00 Medical Detectives
(983068), 1.30 Medical Detectives
(983067), 2.00 Close.

SKY 1
8.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from
Beverly Hills (2573), 8.30 Street Sharks
(2574), 9.00 Garfield and Friends (4542),
9.30 The Simpsons (98088), 10.00
Games World (98088), 10.30 Games
World (98088), 10.30 Just Kidding
(98088), 11.00 The New Adventures of
Superman (98088), 12.00 Married with
Children (98088), 12.30 M*A*S*H (98088),
12.55 The Special K Collection (98088),
1.00 Gekko (98088), 1.35 The Special K
Collection (98088), 2.00 Sally Jessy
Rachael (98088), 2.35 The Special K
Collection (98088), 3.00 Jenny Jones
(98088), 3.35 The Special K Collection
(98088), 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
(98088), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (98088),
5.30 The Nanny (98088), 6.30 Married with

Children (98088), 7.00 The Simpsons (98088),
7.30 The Simpsons (98088), 8.00 The
Simpsons (98088), 8.30 Simpsons (98088),
9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (98088), 10.00
Cops (98088), 10.30 Cops (98088), 11.00
Star Trek: Voyager (98088), 11.30 The Back
Page (98088), 12.00 Long Play (98088),
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